Los Angeles Times

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State eased its duplex rules, but few built

In its first year, SB 9 has done little to spur construction in 13 big cities, report says.

By Hannah Wiley

Once seen as the death knell for single-family-home neighborhoods in California, a new law meant to create more duplexes has instead done little to encourage construction in some of the largest cities in the state, according to a report published Wednesday.

Senate Bill 9 was introduced two years ago as a way to help solve California's severe housing crunch by allowing homeowners to convert their homes into duplexes on a single-family lot or divide the parcel in half to build another duplex for a total of four units. The law went into effect at the start of 2022.

The bill received bipartisan support and ignited fierce debate between its backers, who said SB 9 was a much-needed tool to add housing options for middle-income Californians, and critics, who blasted it as a radical one-size-fits-all policy that undermined local government control.

Neither argument has so far proved to be true.

Across 13 cities in the state, SB 9 projects are "limited or nonexistent," according to a new study by the UC Berkeley Terner Center for Housing Innovation.

The report focused on cities considered high-opportunity areas for duplexes because they've reported significant increases in the construction of accessory dwelling units — also known as granny flats, casitas or

[See **Duplexes,** A9]

Gary Coronado Los Angeles Times

BLANCA HURTADO cleans flood debris Tuesday from her son's home in Planada, Calif., in Merced County. Despite the storms' intensity, experts suggested that some observers were too quick to reach for superlatives.

Storms' link to climate change doubtful

Despite the hype, scientists say, those atmospheric rivers weren't unusual.

By Louis Sahagún

As California emerges from a two-week bout of deadly atmospheric rivers, a number of climate researchers say the recent storms appear to be typical of the intense, periodic rains the state has experienced throughout its history and not the result of global warming.

Although scientists are still studying the size and severity of storms that killed 19 people and caused up to $1 billion in damage, initial assessments suggest the destruction had more to do with California's historic drought-to-deluge cycles, mountainous topography and aging flood infrastructure than it did with climate-altering greenhouse gases.

Although the media and some officials were quick to link a series of powerful storms to climate change, researchers interviewed by The Times said they had yet to see evidence of that connection. Instead, the unexpected onslaught of rain and snow after three years of punishing drought appears akin to other major storms that have struck California every decade or more since

[See **Hype,** A6]

Time to dry out

Rain has tapered off and is expected to be below average the next two weeks. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

A teacher's death brings LAPD rules on Taser use under scrutiny

By Richard Winton

For a disturbing 42 seconds, a Los Angeles police officer repeatedly stunned a teacher with a Taser gun this month as other officers tried to pin and handcuff the man in the middle of a busy Venice street.

The gaps between pulses were so brief that Keenan Anderson, 31, could get out only a few words — including "Help me, please" — as he repeatedly cried out in agony.

Anderson died several hours later, though his cause of death has not yet been established.

The actions of the officers, captured on LAPD body cameras, have sparked protests, an internal investigation and calls for changes in police policies.

In particular, the case has placed scrutiny on Los Angeles Police Department guidelines on officers' use of Tasers. Its written policies address the circumstance under which Tasers can be used but are vague when it comes to

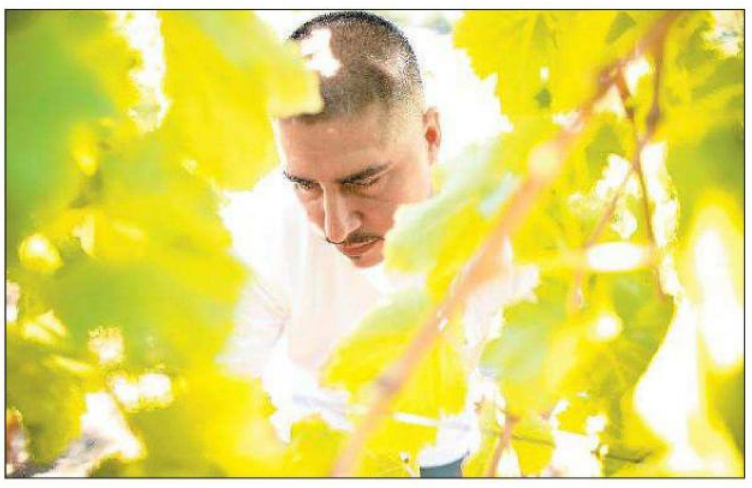
[See **Taser,** A9]

LAPD

KEENAN ANDERSON was tased six times in 42 seconds as police officers tried to arrest him in Venice on Jan. 3. He later died at a hospital.

THEIR ROOTS AND VINES

Latino winemakers grapple with identity and people's notions of what it means to be a vintner in a white-dominated industry



Photographs by Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

STANLEY BARRIOS, top, thins Grenache vines of dried or damaged fruit. Above, Nancy Ulloa with partner Tim Small.

By Cindy Carcamo

Five years ago, Californians began to take notice of Edgar Torres, a boutique vintner in Paso Robles whose Spanish-inspired wines were already earning accolades.

But it was Torres' backstory that really piqued people's interest. At the age of 8, he emigrated from his native Michoacan state in Mexico to the United States with his younger sister and a family friend in the back of a Volkswagen bus. He grew up in Cambria and moved to Paso Robles in 2002, where he became a waiter at Villa Creek Restaurant, a local winemaker hangout where he developed his palate for wine.

Encouraged by several local wine producers, Torres ended up working in the industry, starting as a "cellar rat" and eventually landing at Hug Cellars, where he worked his way up to assistant winemaker under his mentor, Augie Hug.

In 2005, he became the first Mexican American vintner in Paso Robles.

But for Torres, his heritage is a bit of a mixed blessing. He stands out in a competitive market notable for its prestigious Central Coast wines, but he finds himself managing other people's expectations of what it means to be a Latino winery owner.

Shortly after he was featured in local media as the first "Mexican American winemaker," a man came into his tasting room with a camera. "Hey, you're the Mexicano," the visitor said, before snapping a photo and leaving. He

[See **Wine,** A12]

Interior minister, aides die in copter crash outside Kyiv

At least 14 perish, including a child at a Ukraine kindergarten. The cause is unclear.

By Malak Harb

BROVARY, Ukraine — A helicopter that was carrying Ukraine's interior minister crashed into a kindergarten in a foggy residential suburb of Kyiv on Wednesday, killing him and about a dozen other people, including a child on the ground, authorities said.

Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky, who oversaw Ukraine's police and emergency services, is the most senior official to die since Russia invaded nearly 11 months ago. The crash, which also killed the rest of his ministry's leadership and the entire helicopter crew, was the second calamity in five days to befall Ukraine, after a Russian missile struck an apartment building in the southeastern city of Dnipro, killing dozens of civilians.

There was no immediate word on whether the incident in the capital's eastern suburb of Brovary was an accident or related to the war, but Ukrainian authorities immediately opened an investigation. No fighting has been reported recently in the Kyiv area.

President Volodymyr Zelensky — addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, by video link — said the crash had a broad connection to the war.

"This is not an accident, because it has been due to war and the war has many dimensions, not just on the battlefields," he said after asking the Davos audience to join him in standing for a minute of silence to honor those killed. "There are no accidents at wartime. These are all war results."

[See **Ukraine,** A4]

Efrem Lukatsky Associated Press

WORKERS recover victims' bodies after the helicopter crashed in a foggy suburb of Ukraine's capital.

The federal debt ceiling explained

The U.S. is about to hit its legal borrowing limit. Here's a look at what's happening and what's at stake. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

USC to honor Allyson Felix

A stadium field will be named after the most decorated U.S. track athlete in Olympic history. **SPORTS, B10**

Good news for state energy grid

All the rain and snow in recent weeks may lead to more hydropower and less reliance on natural gas. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather

Variable clouds, dry. L.A. Basin: 59/41. **B6**

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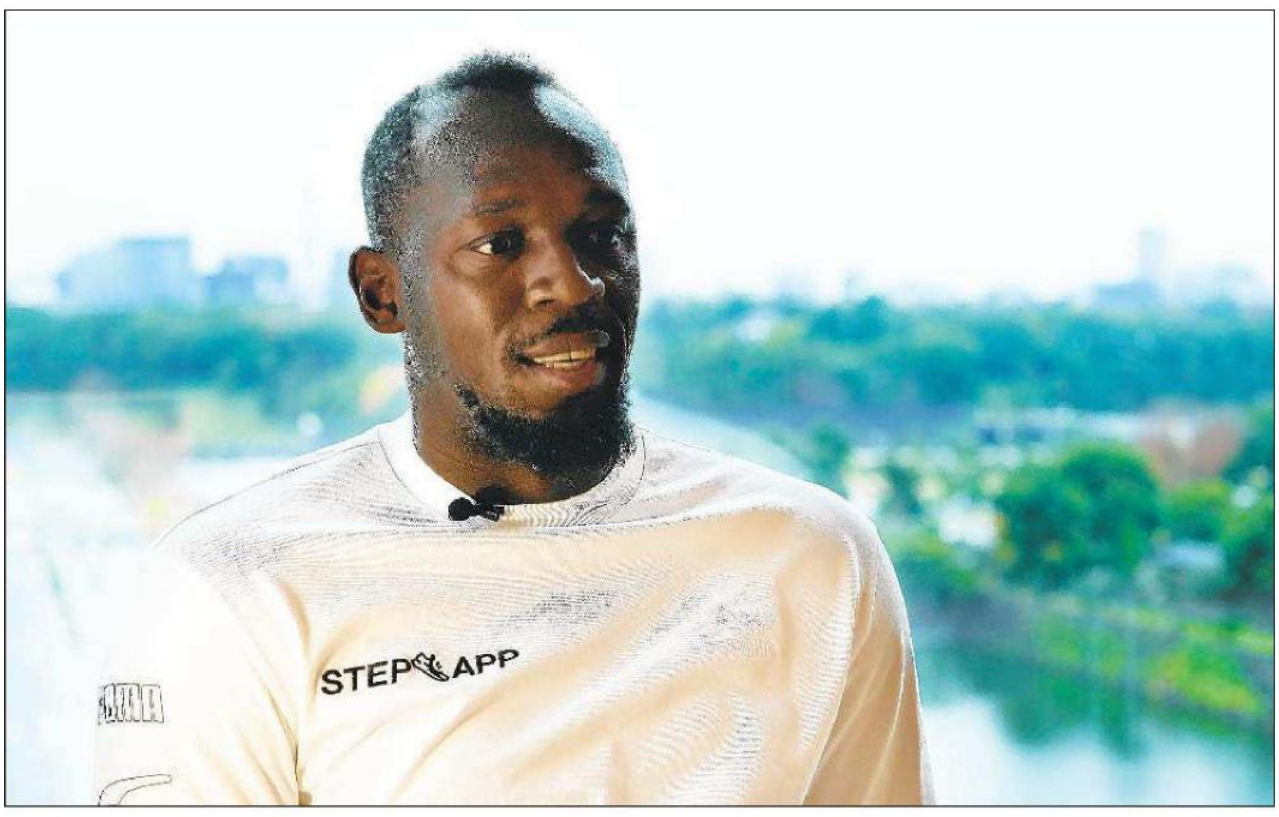


HIRO KOMAE Associated Press

USAIN BOLT, the legendary Jamaican sprinter, had $12.8 million in a private investment account in Jamaica, his lawyers say, but more than $12.7 million of it has gone missing. They are demanding its return.

Bolt's missing millions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Lawyers for Jamaican Usain Bolt, one of the world's greatest sprinters, said Wednesday that more than $12.7 million is missing from his account with a private investment firm in Jamaica that authorities are investigating.

Attorney Linton P. Gordon provided the Associated Press with a copy of a letter sent to Stocks & Securities Ltd. demanding that the money be returned.

Gordon said Bolt's account once had $12.8 million but now reflects a balance of only $12,000.

"If this is correct, and we are hoping it is not, then a serious act of fraud, larceny or a combination of both have been committed against our client," Bolt's attorneys say in the letter. They threaten civil and criminal action if the money is not returned within 10 days.

Stocks & Securities Ltd. did not immediately respond to a request for comment. On its website, the company asked that clients direct all urgent queries to Jamaica's Financial Services Commission, which is investigating the firm.

"We understand that clients are anxious to receive more information and assure you that we are closely monitoring the matter throughout all the required steps and will alert our clients of the resolution as soon as that information is available," the company said.

The company has said that it discovered the discrepancy earlier this month and several of its clients may be missing millions of dollars.

Jamaica's finance minister, Nigel Clarke, called the situation alarming but noted it was unusual.

"It is tempting to doubt our financial institutions, but I would ask that we don't paint an entire hard-working industry with the brush of a few very dishonest individuals," he said.

Bolt's lawyers sent the letter Monday, the same day that Jamaica's Financial Services Commission announced that it was appointing a special auditor to look into fraud allegations at Stocks & Securities Ltd., which is based in the capital, Kingston.

On Tuesday, financial authorities said they were assuming temporary management of the private investment firm. It is allowed to keep operating but needs approval from the government for any transactions.

Bolt, who retired in 2017, holds the world records for the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 meters.

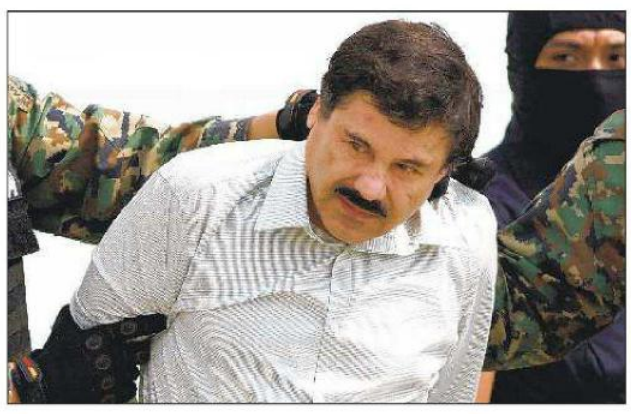
Mexico to weigh 'El Chapo' request

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's president said Wednesday that his government will consider a plea by imprisoned drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman to be returned to Mexico, presumably to serve out his sentence.

Guzman, 64, was sentenced to life behind bars in the United States for a drug conspiracy that spread murder and mayhem for more than two decades.

He has lived in poor conditions in prison since his 2019 conviction, said José Refugio Rodríguez, a Mexican lawyer who claims to represent him. Rodríguez told local media that Guzman hasn't had adequate access to sunlight, visits, good food or medical care at the federal prison in Colorado where he's incarcerated.



EDUARDO VERDUGO Associated Press

DRUG lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, shown after his 2014 arrest, has asked to be returned to Mexico.

The Mexican Embassy in Washington said on its Twitter account that it had received an email from Rodríguez about the issue and had turned it over to Mexico's foreign ministry.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said, "We will review it," adding, "You always have to keep the door open when it comes to human rights."

The U.S. and Mexico have a prison transfer agreement that allows inmates convicted in one country to serve out their sentences in their home country under certain circumstances. But given Guzman's crimes, his sentence and the risks he purportedly still poses, many doubt the agreement would apply in his case.

U.S. is about to hit the debt ceiling. What happens next?

Economists warn of a global financial crisis. Here's what to know about the situation.

BY JOSH BOAK

WASHINGTON — On the brink of hitting the nation's legal borrowing limit on Thursday, the government is resorting to "extraordinary measures" to avoid a default.

Sounds ominous, right?

But — take a breath — the phrase technically refers to a bunch of accounting workarounds.

Because the debt cap limits the issuance of government bonds — a way the U.S. borrows money — these workarounds shift money among accounts and should keep the government open through at least June, according to a letter last week by Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen.

In theory, President Biden and Congress are supposed to use that additional time to work out an agreement to raise the nation's $31.38-trillion debt ceiling. These talks often grow heated and go down to the wire, with major economic damage in the balance. But there have been roughly 80 deals to raise or suspend the borrowing cap since the 1960s.

What could be worrisome is not the existence of extraordinary measures, but what happens if they are exhausted this summer without a deal in place. Economists have warned that could lead to a global financial crisis.

So far, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) and Biden are playing what could be a dangerous game of chicken with the world's largest economy in the middle.

Some questions and answers on the situation:

What are "extraordinary measures"?

Yellen's Friday letter listed two measures that will begin this month to prevent the government from defaulting.

First, the government will temporarily suspend payments to the retirement, disability and health benefit funds for federal employees. Second, it will suspend the reinvestment of maturing government bonds in the retirement savings accounts of government workers.

By suspending the payments, the government can reduce the amount of outstanding debt. That enables the Treasury Department to keep financing government operations, according to Yellen's letter.

What allows Treasury to use these measures?

No dispute there. Congress has given Treasury the authority to do so.

Because these are retirement accounts, no one is harmed by the government equivalent of an IOU. The funds are made whole after a debt ceiling increase or suspension becomes law. It's not necessarily the measures that can harm the economy but rather the doubts among consumers and businesses about whether lawmakers will increase the borrowing cap.

How big are these retirement funds?

There were $986 billion in net assets of the civil service and federal employees retirement funds at the end of fiscal 2021, according to a report by the Office of Personnel Management. The required government contributions to the funds are large enough to rely on these extraordinary measures for roughly five months.

How common is this?

"Treasury Secretaries in every Administration over recent decades have used these extraordinary measures when necessary," Yellen wrote in her letter.

The measures were first deployed in 1985 and have been used at least 16 times, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a fiscal watchdog.

Why do we have a debt limit?

Before World War I, Congress needed to approve each bond issuance. The debt limit was created as a workaround to finance the war effort without needing a constant series of votes.

Since then, a tool created to make it easier for the government to function has become a source of dysfunction, stoking partisan warfare and creating economic risk as the debt has increased in size over the last 20 years.

How risky is the brinkmanship this time?

It looks alarming, and it's unclear how Biden, McCarthy and the Democratic Senate will find common ground. A default could cause millions of job losses, a deep recession that would reverberate globally and, ironically, higher interest rates that would make it harder to manage the federal debt.

McCarthy said Tuesday that talks should begin immediately on the potential spending cuts that Republicans are seeking in exchange for raising the debt limit, even though the Biden administration has equated that demand to holding the U.S. economy hostage.

"Who wants to put the nation in some type of threat at the last minute of the debt ceiling?" McCarthy said. "Nobody wants to do that. That's why we're asking, 'Let's change our behavior now. Let's sit down.' "

The Biden administration wants the borrowing cap increased without any preconditions. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre on Tuesday ruled out holding talks with McCarthy.

Do debt limit showdowns help reduce government debt?

Not so much.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that annual budget deficits will grow from roughly $1 trillion to more than $2 trillion over the next 10 years.

The imbalance over the coming years increasingly reflects government expenses for programs such as Medicare and Social Security that are outstripping tax revenue. That suggests the government would need severe cuts to spending, major tax hikes or some combination of those options.

In 2011 when Barack Obama was president and Biden was vice president, there was a bipartisan deal to raise the debt limit by $900 billion in return for $917 billion worth of automatic spending cuts over 10 years.

But the debt reduction never fully materialized.

After Donald Trump became president in 2017, GOP lawmakers fueled further debt increases by passing deficit-financed tax cuts. Debt accelerated even more with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which caused massive government borrowing to pull the U.S. out of a deep recession.

The budget office last year estimated that the U.S. debt would exceed $40 trillion in 2032.

Boak writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

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FOR THE RECORD

Goshen killings: In an article in the Jan. 18 Section A about the killing of six people in Goshen, Calif., information provided by Tulare County sheriff's officials misspelled the first name of 16-year-old victim Alissa Parraz as Elyssa.

‘Tyranny is outpacing democracy’

Ukraine’s president tells economic forum that West must supply arms more quickly.

By Jamey Keaten

Markus Schreiber Associated Press

SPEAKING by video link, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that “the supplies of Western tanks must outpace another invasion of Russian tanks.”

DAVOS, Switzerland — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told political leaders at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos that supplies of Western weapons must come quicker than Russia’s attacks, urging the world to move faster because “tragedies are outpacing life; the tyranny is outpacing democracy.”

Zelensky, speaking by video link from Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, said the world needs to react more rapidly to challenges like global security, climate change, hunger and energy, warning that in the war, “the time the free world uses to think is used by the terrorist state to kill.”

He said his allies must not hesitate: “The supplying of Ukraine with air defense systems must outpace Russia’s vast missile attacks. The supplies of Western tanks must outpace another invasion of Russian tanks.”

Zelensky spoke after U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres described the world as being in a “sorry state” because of interlinked challenges including climate change and Russia’s war in Ukraine that are “piling up like cars in a chain reaction crash.”

The gloom hung on the second day of the elite gathering of world leaders and corporate executives in the Swiss ski resort of Davos after a helicopter crashed into a kindergarten in Ukraine, killing more than a dozen people, including Ukraine’s interior minister.

Zelensky stood and asked for a moment of silence for the victims. There was no immediate word on the cause of the crash, but he said that “every individual, every death is a result of war.”

His wife, first lady Olena Zelenska, earlier called it “another very sad day,” dabbing teary eyes, then telling Davos attendees that “we can also change this negative situation for the better.”

The Ukrainian delegation to Davos, including Zelenska, has been pushing for more aid, including increasingly advanced weapons, from international allies to fight Russia.

Shortly before Zelensky spoke, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz reiterated that Germany was one of the top suppliers of military equipment to Ukraine, just behind the U.S. and Britain, when asked why he had not sent tanks to the war-torn country.

Though Germany has provided air-defense systems and armored personnel carriers, Scholz — the only leader to attend Davos from the Group of 7 biggest economies — is facing pressure to send tanks to help Ukraine.

“We will continue to support Ukraine — for as long as necessary,” Scholz said.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Ukraine’s Western backers this week will discuss ways to supply heavier and more advanced weapons.

“The main message there will be: more support, more advanced support, heavier weapons and more modern weapons,” Stoltenberg said of a gathering in Germany of top defense officials, including U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III, who work to coordinate military contributions to Ukraine.

“This is a fight for our values, this is a fight for democracy — and we just have to prove that democracy wins over tyranny and oppression,” the NATO leader added.

Guterres, in his address, said the “gravest levels of geopolitical division and mistrust in generations” are undermining efforts to tackle global problems, which also include widening inequality, a cost-of-living crisis sparked by soaring inflation and an energy crunch, lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions and more.

The U.N. chief singled out climate change as an “existential challenge,” and said a global commitment to limit Earth’s temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius — 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit — “is nearly going up in smoke.”

Guterres, who has been one of the most outspoken world figures on climate change, referenced a recent study that found scientists at Exxon Mobil made remarkably accurate predictions about the effects of climate change as far back as the 1970s, even as the company publicly questioned whether warming was real.

“We learned last week that certain fossil fuel producers were fully aware in the 1970s that their core product was baking our planet,” he said in his speech. “Some in Big Oil peddled the big lie.”

Critics have questioned the importance of the four-day meeting where politicians, CEOs and other leaders discuss the world’s problems but where concrete action is harder to measure. Environmentalists, for example, decry the carbon-spewing private jets that ferry bigwigs to an event that prioritizes the battle against climate change.

Government officials, corporate titans, academics and activists were attending dozens of panel sessions on topics covering the metaverse, environmental greenwashing and artificial intelligence.

Ukraine has taken center stage as the anniversary of the war nears. When Zelensky was asked about engaging in a dialogue with Russia, he said that “they will have to recognize their own mistakes, they will have to recognize Ukrainian statutes, and they will have to really respect our territorial integrity.”

NATO’s leader says supplying Ukraine more equipment long term will help force Russian President Vladimir Putin to negotiate. “It is very dangerous to underestimate Russia,” Stoltenberg warned. “Weapons — they are the way to peace,” but they must come quickly.

Zelensky has made daily pleas for more advanced weapons, escalating his requests as Russia introduces new tactics and weapons against the much smaller Ukrainian army. Western countries have heeded the calls, although often with a delay and not in the number sought.

Guterres was not optimistic that the conflict could end soon.

“I do not see the end of the war in the immediate future,” he said. Deep historical differences between Russia and Ukraine make it more difficult to find a solution based on international law and that respects territorial integrity, he said.

Keaten writes for the Associated Press.

Warren Buckland New Zealand Herald

“I AM entering now my sixth year in office, and for each of those years, I have given my absolute all,” said Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, at times near tears.

Leader of New Zealand announces her resignation

‘I no longer have enough in the tank,’ says Jacinda Ardern, lauded for her early handling of pandemic.

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, whose empathetic handling of the nation’s worst mass shooting and public-health-driven response to the pandemic drew international admiration but who faced mounting criticism at home, said Thursday she was leaving office.

Fighting back tears, Ardern told reporters in Napier that Feb. 7 will be her last day as prime minister.

“I am entering now my sixth year in office, and for each of those years, I have given my absolute all,” she said.

She also announced that New Zealand’s next general elections would be held Oct. 14 and that she would remain a lawmaker until then.

It’s unclear who will take over as prime minister until the election. Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson announced he wouldn’t be seeking the leadership of the Labor Party, throwing the competition open.

Ardern described her job as among the most privileged but challenging and said doing it required having a reserve to face the unexpected. She said she no longer had that reserve to serve another term.

She said her time in office has been fulfilling but challenging. “But I am not leaving because it was hard. Had that been the case I probably would have departed two months into the job. I am leaving because with such a privileged role comes responsibility, the responsibility to know when you are the right person to lead, and also when you are not. I know what this job takes, and I know that I no longer have enough in the tank to do it justice. It is that simple,” she said.

Ardern had been facing tough election prospects. Her liberal Labor Party won reelection two years ago in a landslide of historic proportions, but recent polls have put the party behind its conservative rivals.

She was lauded globally for her country’s initial handling of the COVID-19 pandemic after New Zealand managed for months to stop the virus at its borders. But that zero-tolerance strategy was abandoned once it was challenged by new variants and vaccines became available.

She faced tougher criticism at home that the strategy was too strict.

Ardern announced in December that a Royal Commission of Inquiry would look into whether the government made the right decisions in battling COVID-19 and how it can better prepare for future pandemics. Its report is due next year.

In March 2019, Ardern faced one of the darkest days in New Zealand’s history when a white supremacist gunman stormed two mosques in Christchurch and killed 51 people. She was widely praised for the way she embraced the survivors and New Zealand’s Muslim community in the aftermath.

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Top Interior Ministry officials die in crash

DANIEL COLE Associated Press

THE HELICOPTER that crashed into a kindergarten in a suburb of Kyiv was carrying nine people. All aboard and others on the ground died. The crash, which killed the Interior Ministry leadership, may prompt Ukraine to bar top officials from flying on the same aircraft.

[**Ukraine,** from A1]

Ukraine's State Emergency Service, which was operating the French-made Super Puma helicopter, said at least 14 people had been killed, including nine people who were aboard the aircraft and one child on the ground. The agency said 25 people had been injured, including 11 children. Early official reports gave different casualty figures.

At the scene of the crash and ensuing fire, plastic sheets covered at least four bodies. Workers cleared charred and mangled wreckage lying against an apartment building and in the kindergarten's playground. Some walls were partly demolished and blackened. The helicopter's rotors protruded from a destroyed car and rested against a building's entrance.

Kyiv regional Gov. Oleksiy Kuleba told Ukrainian television that emergency services were still identifying remains recovered and that the death toll could rise.

The crash killed five Interior Ministry officials, one national police official and all three helicopter crew members, the national police said.

Monastyrsky's deputy Yevhen Yenin and Yurii Lubkovych, the state secretary in the ministry, were among the dead, the police said.

Monastyrsky, 42, was in charge of police and emergency services that dealt with the consequences of Russian strikes and with clearing mines, political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko told the Associated Press.

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said Ihor Klymenko, the national police chief, has been appointed acting interior minister.

Senior officials have routinely traveled by helicopter at low altitudes and high speed during the conflict, and the tragedy may prompt Kyiv to institute a rule adopted by many European countries that bars top officials from flying on the same aircraft, Fesenko said.

The officials on the helicopter were due to visit the northeastern Kharkiv region, local police chief Volodymyr Tymoshko said, adding on Facebook that they were not just leaders but also friends whom he respected.

The helicopter was sold to Ukraine in 2019, a French defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be identified, according to ministry policy.

The Security Service of Ukraine is investigating "all possible versions" of the crash, Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin said on the messaging app Telegram.

The crash came at a particularly dark period for Ukraine, after the Russian strike Saturday on the apartment building in the southeast killed 45 people, including six children — the deadliest attack on civilians since the spring.

"The pain is unspeakable," Zelensky wrote on Telegram.

"Another very sad day today — new losses," said his wife, Olena Zelenska, dabbing teary eyes as she responded to the news at the economic conference in Davos, where she was mustering support for Ukraine.

White House National Security Council spokesman John F. Kirby called the crash "heartbreaking."

British Home Secretary Suella Braverman called Monastyrsky "a leading light in supporting the Ukrainian people during [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's illegal invasion." She said she was "struck by his determination, optimism and patriotism."

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who is facing pressure to send tanks to Ukraine, tweeted that the crash "shows once again the huge price that Ukraine is having to pay in this war."

Meanwhile, Putin on Wednesday again defended the invasion of Ukraine, offering a variation on his previous arguments.

The Russian leader told a gathering of veterans that Moscow's actions were intended to stop a "war" that has raged since 2014 in eastern Ukraine, where Russia-backed separatists have battled Ukrainian forces.

"All [of] what we are doing today as part of the special military operation is an attempt to stop this war. This is the meaning of our operation — protecting people who live in those territories," he said.

Ukraine and its Western allies have rejected Russia's justifications, saying that Kyiv posed no threat to Moscow and that the invasion was unprovoked.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated that the goals behind the invasion are "determined by Russia's core legitimate interests."

"There must be no military infrastructure in Ukraine that poses a direct threat to our country," he said at his annual news conference. Lavrov claimed that the goal of Ukraine's Western allies is to use the conflict to exhaust Russia.

Fighting continues in eastern Ukraine around the city of Bakhmut and the nearby salt-mining town of Soledar, Donetsk regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Fourteen cities and villages were shelled in the partially occupied Donetsk region over the previous 24 hours, Ukraine's presidential office said. Two civilians were wounded.

The office added that Russian forces had also shelled residential areas of the southern city of Kherson, which was retaken by Kyiv's military in November. Four people were wounded.

Harb writes for the Associated Press.

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LA23-0120

Court hears appeal in George Floyd murder

Ex-cop's lawyer says state verdict should be overturned due to publicity, other issues.

By Steve Karnowski

ST. PAUL, Minn. — An attorney for Derek Chauvin asked an appeals court Wednesday to throw out the former Minneapolis police officer's convictions in the murder of George Floyd, arguing that legal and procedural errors had deprived Chauvin of a fair trial.

Floyd died on May 25, 2020, when Chauvin, who is white, pinned the Black man to the ground by kneeling on his neck for 9½ minutes. A bystander video captured Floyd's fading cries of "I can't breathe." His killing touched off protests around the world and forced a national reckoning over police brutality and racism.

William Mohrman, Chauvin's attorney, told a three-judge panel of the Minnesota Court of Appeals that the trial judge should have moved the case out of Minneapolis because of extensive pretrial publicity and unprecedented security precautions over fears of protests.

"The primary issue on this appeal is whether a criminal defendant can get a fair trial consistent with constitutional requirements in a courthouse surrounded by concrete block, barbed wire, two armored personnel carriers, and a squad of National Guard troops, all of which or whom are there for one purpose: in the event that the jury acquits the defendant," Mohrman said.

But Neal Katyal, a special attorney for the state, said that Chauvin had received "one of the most transparent and thorough trials in our nation's history" and that his "many arguments before this court do not come close to justifying reversal."

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill sentenced the former officer in 2021 to 22½ years in prison after jurors found him guilty of second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Chauvin later pleaded guilty to a separate federal civil rights charge and was sentenced to 21 years in federal prison, which is he is serving in Arizona concurrently with his state sentence.

"Judge Cahill managed this trial with enormous care, and even if Chauvin could identify some minor fault, any error is harmless," Katyal said. "The evidence of Chauvin's guilt was captured on video for the world to see."

Minnesota Atty. Gen. Keith Ellison, who had assembled the prosecution team, sat in the front row for the oral arguments, which Chauvin did not attend.

Appeals Judge Peter Reyes said Wednesday that the court would rule within 90 days.

Even if Chauvin wins his appeal, his federal sentence will keep him in prison longer than his state sentence probably would because he would qualify for parole earlier in the state system.

Mike Brandt, a Minneapolis defense attorney who has been following the cases arising from Floyd's murder, said that Chauvin winning the appeal "would be functionally meaningless" and that the former officer's time in prison is "pretty well locked in stone" given his federal sentence.

Mohrman often pursues conservative causes, including challenges to President Biden's election victory and COVID-19 vaccination mandates.

He argued in his brief that the publicity before Chauvin's trial was the most extensive in Minnesota history, and said the judge should have moved the trial and sequestered the jury.

Mohrman wrote that the publicity, the protests, the city's $27-million settlement with Floyd's family, the unrest over a police killing in a Minneapolis suburb and the sealing off of the courthouse were just some of the factors that undermined Chauvin's chance of a fair trial.

Much of the questioning Wednesday centered on a juror who, a few months after Floyd's death, had participated in a civil rights event to commemorate the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 March on Washington.

Only after the trial did the juror reveal that he had taken part in the 2020 march, also in Washington.

The man was asked during jury selection whether he had participated in any demonstrations or marches in Minneapolis against police brutality after Floyd's death.

But Chauvin's original attorney, Eric Nelson, did not ask whether he had participated in any demonstrations elsewhere.

Mohrman argued that Cahill should have held a hearing after the revelation to determine whether the juror's nondisclosure constituted misconduct. He said the appeals court should send the case back to Cahill for a hearing on that issue.

The appeals court's Reyes said that judges have "fairly broad discretion" in conducting trials, and noted that Nelson had questioned the man and chose not to strike him from the jury. Reyes said case law puts the burden for asking prospective jurors the right questions on the defense.

Katyal told the judges that the juror had accurately answered the questions and had assured the court that he could render an impartial verdict. Katyal also noted that the defense didn't use three of its peremptory strikes, an indication of its satisfaction with the jury.

In their brief, prosecutors said publicity had blanketed the state, making a change of venue for the trial pointless. They also said Cahill had taken sufficient steps to shield jurors from outside influences, so there had been no need to sequester them before deliberations.

The appeal also questions whether it was legal to convict Chauvin of third-degree murder, and whether Cahill was justified in sentencing him to more than the 12½ years recommended by state guidelines.

Karnowski writes for the Associated Press.

Julio Cortez Associated Press

IN MINNEAPOLIS, Damarra Atkins and other supporters continued to pay their respects to Floyd long after his fatal May 2020 arrest.

Court TV

DERECK CHAUVIN will have to serve his federal sentence even if his state conviction is thrown out.

Scientists on recent storms: Been there, done that

[**Hype,** from A1]

experts began keeping records in the 1800s.

"We know from climate models that global warming will boost California storms of the future, but we haven't made that connection with the latest storm systems," said Alexander Gershunov, a climate scientist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. "Assuming that these storms were driven by global warming would be like assuming an athlete who breaks a record was on steroids."

Mike Anderson, official climatologist for California, suggested that the recent series of atmospheric rivers — long plumes of vapor that can pour over the West Coast — was a grim reminder that in a place so dry, sudden flooding can bring catastrophe.

"Each of the recent atmospheric rivers were within the historical distribution of sizes of atmospheric rivers," Anderson said. "It will take further study to determine how warming temperatures influenced the sequence or the sudden transition from dry to wet and soon back to dry."

News and social media images of the storms were harrowing. Massive ocean waves demolished seawalls and a pier. Strong winds uprooted trees that crushed and killed bystanders. Breached levees flooded the Sacramento-San Joaquin River delta region, drowning motorists.

The parade of storms also dumped desperately needed snow on the Sierra Nevada range — nearly 250% of average for this time of year. It also recharged giant reservoirs that had dwindled to weedy channels.

In one instance, Lake Cachuma, about 15 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, rose from 36% capacity to nearly 80% in just one day.

But in a region whose water supply has been severely depleted by more than two decades of megadrought stoked by climate change, researchers suggested that some observers were too quick to reach for superlatives.

"A group I call 'mediaologists' always hype the current situation to make it seem worse than the last one," Gershunov said, using a pithy play on the word meteorologists.

Although scientists still can't say yet where recent storms rank among other epic downpours, they said they did not appear to be one of a kind.

"Overall, it was nothing as big as what we've gone through before," said Jayme Laber, senior hydrologist for the National Weather Service in Los Angeles.

Indeed, early precipitation this winter was far behind the 1956 season, when California had received a whopping 85.3% of its average annual precipitation by Jan. 17, according to the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes. As of Wednesday, California had accumulated about 70% of its average annual total, the center said.

Within the last century, Southern California experienced the "great flood of 1938," which killed more than 100 people, left thousands homeless and prompted officials to line the Los Angeles River with concrete as a means of flood control. Other intense storms have occurred in 1964, 1969, 1982, 1986, 1995, and 2005, when a school camp perched 3,600 feet above Pasadena in the Angeles National Forest recorded 107 inches of rain in one week.

More recently, a series of drought-busting atmospheric rivers that slammed into California in 2017 eroded the main and emergency spillways at Oroville Dam, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate.

That emergency, scientists say, was a taste of the kind of meteorological tumult in store for the future: Climate models predict more frequent megastorms fueled by warming oceans and a thirstier atmosphere due to global warming.

Jessica Christian Associated Press

A PERSON on a Santa Cruz beach passes debris that the San Lorenzo River carried to shore. California has had about 70% of its average annual rain total.

> 'A group I call "mediaologists" always hype the current situation to make it seem worse than the last one.'
>
> — Alexander Gershunov, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

"Most recent storm systems don't hold a candle to the kinds of extreme prolonged storms of the last century," said Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA. "They do, however, point in the direction of the episodes of hydroclimate we can expect to see more of due to global warming."

It's the prospect of these larger and more damaging storms that have fueled calls to upgrade the state's flood infrastructure and spurred efforts to capture and store water for future use.

"California's environment is changing fast beneath our feet," Swain said. "Future generations have huge problems ahead of them."

While the recent storms have provided much needed drought relief to California, they will do little to erase the larger megadrought conditions that have gripped the American West since 2000 — conditions that are fueled substantially by global warming and contributing to a growing crisis along the Colorado River.

"Rain that falls in California stays in California," said A. Park Williams, a climate scientist at UCLA.

"That's because the moisture delivered by Pacific storms is wrung out by huge walls of mountains from the Sierra Nevadas in the north to the San Bernardinos in the south."

Williams, who helped establish that 2000-2021 was the driest 22-year period in the southwest in 1,200 years, said the megadrought is likely to persist through 2023, matching the duration of another megadrought in the late 1500s.

"Although these big wet interruptions of surface water quickly refill reservoirs, which is a good thing, our underground aquifers don't rebound nearly as easily because we've been mining their resources at a breakneck speed for decades," he said.

Like other climate scientists interviewed by The Times, Williams said his research "does not show a connection" between recent storms and global warming.

"Global warming is real," he said, "and because of it the heaviest storms around the world are getting heavier — except in California and the southwestern United States, where the weather typically swings from too dry to too wet."

The intensity of such dry-to-wet swings in the future will be amplified by drought, rising temperatures, and continuing human exploitation of natural water resources, scientists say.

Those swings will not only test California's ability to weather harsher storms, but forever alter the ecological cycles of plants and animals that have evolved here over millions of years.

Indeed, while millions of Californians were wringing their hands over weather reports generated by local and national media, biologists were trying to draw attention to the effects of two decades of drought, heat waves, wildfires and debris flows.

They say a growing list of living symbols of longevity, strength, and perseverance — desert tortoises, saguaro cactuses, bristlecone pines, cottonwood trees, giant sequoias, chinook salmon, Joshua trees — may be at an evolutionary crossroads.

"California's species have a long history of adapting to episodic drought," said Gary Bucciarelli, a conservation biologist at UC Davis. "But never before have they struggled to survive so many different threats at one time."

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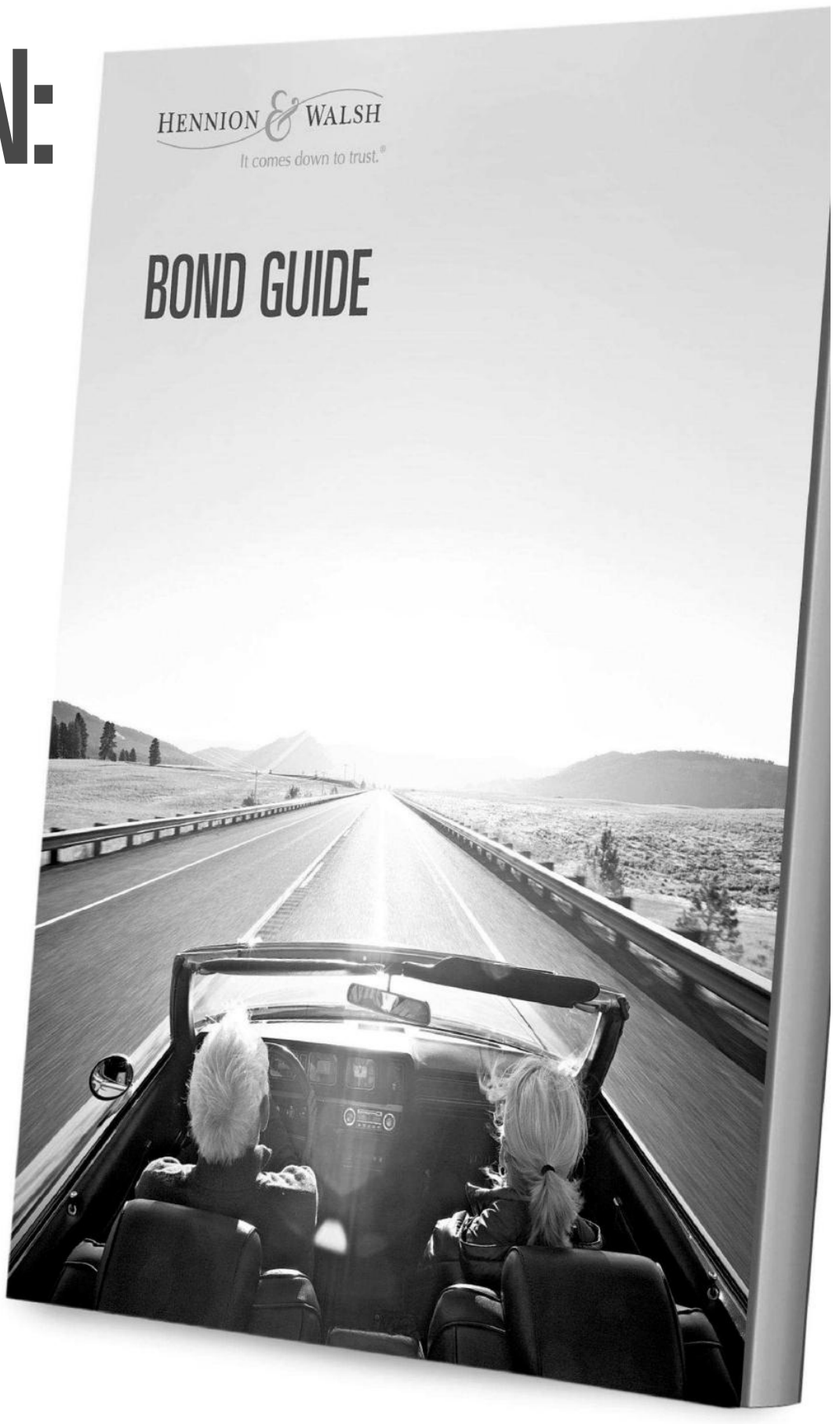

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BUSINESS

Stakes are high as Musk's Tesla tweet trial starts

By Russ Mitchell

Is Elon Musk a fraud, or is he just misunderstood? Is he a liar, or does he sometimes just use the "wrong words"?

Those questions took center stage in a San Francisco courtroom Wednesday as Musk's "funding secured" trial gets underway.

The trial, in U.S. District Court, involves an Aug. 7, 2018, tweet in which Tesla Chief Executive Musk said he had "funding secured" to take Tesla private at $420 a share, a healthy premium to the stock's trading price at the time.

But Musk has never been able to show that funding was secured. The take-private deal never happened, but the stock value of the company swung by roughly $14 billion as investors tried to sort out what was real and what was not.

If this all sounds familiar, it's because Musk agreed later in 2018 to settle fraud charges with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The multibillionaire was levied a $20-million fine. Musk is in another court trying to get the settlement overturned.

This week's trial will go over much of the same ground while covering new territory — testimony from investors who say they lost millions by trusting in Musk. The current trial was filed by lawyers representing a number of investors in a class-action suit. If Musk loses, it could cost him many billions of dollars.

Nicholas Porritt, lead attorney for the investors, told the jury during opening statements that "millions of dollars were lost when [Musk's] lies were exposed."

An attorney for Musk argued that the chief executive used the "wrong words" when he tweeted his plans in 2018.

The first witness up was investor and lead plaintiff Glen Littleton. He talked about how he lost $3.5 million by mistakenly trusting Musk. Musk's lawyers, through questioning of Littleton, sought to paint him as a high-frequency Tesla trader who knew the stock was volatile.

Littleton testified he trusted Musk to do what he promised, and after he saw the tweet, "In my mind the [deal] has been made. 'Secured' was final."

A verdict against Musk could cost him far more than simply a slice of his wealth. It would put a black eye on a public reputation that has shifted rapidly from hero to villain since he took over Twitter. Musk has beat back legal threats in the past, most famously prevailing in a libel case filed after he called a cave-dive rescuer a "pedo" after the man criticized Musk.

He is expected to take the stand at some point during the trial to defend his funding-secured tweet.

Fred Greaves California Department of Water Resources

ENGINEERS with the California Department of Water Resources measure the snowpack off Highway 50 in the Sierra Nevada on Jan. 3. Melting snow in springtime feeds the rivers that help power large hydro facilities.

Good news for energy grid

All the rain, snow in recent weeks may lead to more hydropower, less reliance on gas.

By Rob Nikolewski

Torrential rain across California in recent weeks has caused plenty of misery, but it could also generate some good news on the energy front: If rain and snow totals hold up, all the precipitation will boost hydroelectric production — and that would help the Golden State's electric grid, especially in the summertime when the system comes under strain.

"Based on the reservoir levels and what we're seeing this year, we expect to have more hydroelectricity generated this year than we have for the last several years," said Lindsay Buckley, spokesperson for the California Energy Commission.

Shasta Lake near Redding is California's largest reservoir, feeding the Shasta Powerplant, which produces hydroelectric power for the 15-state Western power grid. As of midnight Monday, Shasta Lake was up to 83% of average, according to the Department of Water Resources.

Reservoir levels at Oroville Dam in the Sierra Nevada foothills, which serves the Edward Hyatt Power Plant, are up to 104% of average. The Folsom Dam near Sacramento has swollen to 123% of average.

Snowpack in the Sierra is also piling up fast.

The UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab, at an elevation of nearly 7,000 feet at Donner Pass, reported receiving 80.9 inches of snow in the last week.

Melting snow in springtime feeds the rivers that help power large hydro facilities, and "snow water equivalent" is a crucial metric. It refers to the overall amount of water the snowpack contains and will release when it evaporates.

As of Tuesday morning, the snow water equivalent measured by the Snow Lab stood at 35.6 inches, compared with 17.2 inches for an average year. That's 207% of the average for the current water year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2023.

"That means we [have] just about twice the amount of water in the snowpack that we would expect [at] this point in that water year," said Andrew Schwartz, the Snow Lab's lead scientist.

The average peak for snow water equivalent is already at 96%.

"We typically hit our peak snowpack depth in water equivalent at the end of March, and we're already nearly at what that peak normally looks like," Schwartz said. "So we're effectively hitting what would be our normal peak in snow water equivalent about 2½ months early."

A healthy hydro year can give California's grid operators a valuable asset.

Hydro shortages lead to ramping up of natural gas generation to help make up the difference, which increases greenhouse gas emissions. A hydro abundance also means grid operators can be a bit less reliant on electricity from out-of-state sources.

It also gives power system managers more flexibility at peak times during the summer, such as from 4 to 9 p.m. Those are the hours when solar generation dissipates as the sun goes down but demand remains high as customers keep their air conditioners running until temperatures cool off.

A stressed grid led the California Independent System Operator last summer to issue 10 consecutive days of Flex Alerts that called on utility customers to voluntarily cut back on energy consumption.

In wet years, such as 2016-17, hydro facilities can supply around 21% of all in-state generation to the grid.

But in dry years, the numbers can plummet. In 2015, large-scale and small hydro combined to produce just 7.1% of in-state generation. The numbers for 2022 are still being tabulated by the energy commission, but in 2021, hydro accounted for a meager 7.5% of in-state generation.

Officials at the California ISO, which manages the electric grid for about 80% of the state, will hold off on making any projections on hydroelectricity output until they conduct their summer 2023 assessment in May.

"Even though we've received lots of rain so far, we don't know what the rest of the season will be," California ISO spokesperson Anne Gonzales said.

There's reason to be cautious.

Last winter jumped out to a great start, with the Snow Lab measuring record totals for snowfall in December 2021. But Mother Nature abruptly turned off the spigot. The lab recorded no snowfall at all for 37 days in January and February 2022 — the longest period that the lab's records dating from 1970 had ever gone without winter precipitation.

Rain in Northern and Southern California was sparse as well, and 2022 went down as another year of drought.

"That is so fresh in the back of water modelers' and managers' minds right now that we're a little bit hesitant to start celebrating this amazing snowpack because there is a slim chance that we might see that happen again this year," Schwartz said.

John Yarbrough, assistant deputy director of the State Water Project for the California Department of Water Resources, sounded a similar note. "Though early-season precipitation is encouraging, it's prudent to remain diligent with the water conservation," Yarbrough said in an email. "Our rainy season is not over and could turn dry, as it did last year."

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources operate large hydro plants in California.

Meteorologists forecast one more storm to come through Northern California and the Sierra, lasting through Thursday. Officials at the Snow Lab expect the storm to bring an additional 1 to 2 feet of snow.

Nikolewski writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Amazon job cuts to affect 18,000

By Matt Day and Spencer Soper

Amazon.com has started its biggest-ever round of jobs cuts — a culling that will ultimately affect 18,000 workers around the globe.

Amazon began notifying employees by email early Wednesday, Doug Herrington, the company's worldwide retail chief, said in a memo.

He said the company aimed to communicate with all laid-off workers in the U.S., Canada and Costa Rica by the end of the day. Notifications in China will be sent after the Chinese New Year, and in other regions Amazon must consult with employee representatives before finalizing layoffs.

The world's largest e-commerce company is grappling with slowing online sales growth and bracing for a possible recession that could affect the spending power of its customers.

Herrington said Amazon's cuts were part of an effort to lower costs "so we can continue investing in the wide selection, low prices and fast shipping that our customers love."

He said the company would "continue investing meaningfully" in growth areas including groceries, Amazon's business-to-business sales program, services for third-party sellers and healthcare.

The eliminations started last year and initially fell hardest on Amazon's Devices and Services group, which builds the Alexa digital assistant and Echo smart speakers. The latest round will mostly affect the retail division and human resources.

Although the cuts represent only about 1% of the total workforce, which includes hundreds of thousands of hourly warehouse and delivery personnel, they amount to about 6% of Amazon's 350,000 corporate employees around the globe.

Amazon shares closed down 0.6% at $95.46.

The Seattle-based company spent much of last year adjusting to a sharp slowdown in e-commerce growth as shoppers returned to pre-pandemic habits.

Amazon delayed warehouse openings and halted hiring in its retail group. It broadened the freeze to the company's corporate staff and then began making cuts.

Amazon is among several large tech companies that are trimming their ranks, including Cisco Systems, Intel, Meta Platforms, Qualcomm and Salesforce. Microsoft on Wednesday announced that it was cutting 10,000 jobs.

In his memo, Herrington said the company would provide severance, transitional health benefits and job placement to affected workers.

Day and Soper write for Bloomberg.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Tech sector leads stocks' biggest retreat of '23

By Damian J. Troise and Alex Veiga

Wall Street had its biggest pullback of the year Wednesday after a broad slide for stocks wiped out much of the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index's gains from last week.

The S&P 500 fell 1.6% after having been up as much as 0.6% in the early going. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 1.8% and the Nasdaq composite slid 1.2%, ending a seven-day winning streak. The losses are a reversal for the market, which kicked off the year with a two-week rally.

The selling came as new data showed that even as inflation continues to cool, the economy is slowing, heightening worries about the possibility of a recession. Meanwhile, a key Federal Reserve policymaker said interest rates need to go higher than the central bank has previously signaled.

The government reported that Americans cut back on their spending at retailers more than anticipated last month, the second straight decline. Separately, the Fed said U.S. industrial production, which covers manufacturing, mining and utilities, fell in December much more than economists had expected.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,296.96	-613.89	-1.81	+0.45
S&P 500	3,928.86	-62.11	-1.56	+2.33
Nasdaq composite	10,957.01	-138.10	-1.24	+4.69
S&P 400	2,543.36	-32.25	-1.25	+4.65
Russell 2000	1,854.36	-29.93	-1.59	+5.29
EuroStoxx 50	4,173.96	-0.37	-0.01	+10.06
Nikkei (Japan)	26,791.12	+652.44	+2.50	+2.67
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	21,678.00	+100.36	+0.47	+9.59

Associated Press

The government also reported more encouraging inflation data. Wholesale prices rose 6.2% in December from a year earlier, a sixth straight slowdown for the measure of prices before they are passed along to consumers.

"The appearances are that it looks like something is moving inflation and retail sales in the right direction, which is to say softer," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager at Globalt Investments. "The question is, what does it really mean?"

Wall Street has been hoping that easing inflation and a slowdown in economic growth might influence the Federal Reserve's position on interest rates. The central bank aggressively raised rates throughout 2022 in an effort to cool hot inflation, but that has hurt prices of stocks and bonds, and risks going too far and bringing on a recession.

Although there's growing evidence that high inflation is finally easing, further rate hikes are still needed, said Loretta Mester, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

"I still see the larger risk coming from tightening too little," Mester said in an interview Tuesday with the Associated Press.

Mester stressed her belief that the Fed's key rate should rise a "little bit" above the 5% to 5.25% range that policymakers have collectively projected for the end of this year.

The central bank has raised its key overnight rate to a range of 4.25% to 4.50% from roughly zero a year ago. The Fed will announce its next decision on interest rates Feb. 1. Investors are largely forecasting an increase of just 0.25 of a percentage point next month, down from December's half-point hike and from four prior increases of 0.75 of a percentage point.

"Today's retail sales and industrial production disappointments increase the likelihood of a recession," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

The broader economic picture is still not clear enough to see whether the Fed's fight against inflation is working well enough to avoid a recession. Several major banks have forecast at least a mild recession at some point in 2023.

Technology stocks were among the biggest drags on the market, including a 1.9% drop in Microsoft after the tech titan joined others in its industry in announcing layoffs. The software giant is cutting 10,000 workers or almost 5% of its workforce.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 62.11 points to 3,928.86. The Dow dropped 613.89 points to 33,296.96, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq slid 138.10 points to close at 10,957.86.

Small-company stocks also lost ground. The Russell 2000 index fell 29.92 points, or 1.6%, to 1,854.36.

Treasury yields fell broadly as traders reviewed the latest economic data. The 10-year Treasury yield, which influences interest rates on mortgages and other loans, fell to 3.37% from 3.55% late Tuesday.

The yield on the two-year Treasury, which tracks expectations for future Fed action, fell to 4.09% from about 4.16% just before the latest economic data were released. It was as high as 4.21% late Tuesday.

Troise and Veiga write for the Associated Press. AP writers Elaine Kurtenbach and Matt Ott contributed to this report.

Duplex rules eased, but few have been built

[**Duplexes,** from A1]
ADUs — in recent years and have available single-family properties for possible divided lots. ADUs are small, free-standing homes most often built in the backyards of existing single-family homes.

The cities are Anaheim, Bakersfield, Berkeley, Burbank, Danville, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Maria and Saratoga.

By the end of November, the cities had collectively received 282 applications for SB 9 projects, and had approved only 53.

Los Angeles accounted for the bulk of applications with 211 submitted and 38 approved, according to the report. San Francisco received 25 applications and had approved four, while San Diego received seven and had approved none.

Three cities received one application, and in Bakersfield, Danville and Santa Maria, zero were submitted.

Applications for dividing lots seem to be even less popular than for building duplexes. Just 100 applications were submitted, the report noted, and 28 had been approved.

David Garcia, Terner Center's policy director, said SB 9 is only in its first year of implementation and should be given more time before it's judged as ineffective. But he added that lawmakers should consider whether the law needs tweaking.

"It doesn't seem like Senate Bill 9 in its first year has resulted in very meaningful amounts of new housing," Garcia said. "Pretty much everywhere you look, Senate Bill 9 activity is very marginal. It is nonexistent in some places."

Homeowners right now have an easier time building an ADU than a duplex, thanks to local and state laws that have eased barriers to construction in recent years, Garcia said. It took multiple rounds of legislation to see productive ADU development, and the same will probably be true for SB 9 projects, he said.

Recognizing that more was needed to speed up housing construction in California, the Legislature began overhauling state ADU laws in 2016, and cities followed suit with their own local ordinances to clear red tape in the building process, which has inspired a widespread ADU movement.

Between January 2017 and September 2021, the most recent period for which data are available, Los Angeles reported receiving 26,925 ADU applications. It has issued 18,893 permits and granted "certificates of occupancy" to nearly 10,000.

Heidi Vonblum, San Diego's planning director, said the law is new and barriers to development are still being worked out.

At the same time, the city has an ADU program that "has been very attractive to property owners," Vonblum said, while updated zoning rules and community plans have eliminated "the need to rely on other programs."

It's a similar situation in Sacramento, where homeowners are allowed to build up to two ADUs on their properties, said Kevin Colin, the city's zoning administrator. Colin's team handles one to two ADU applications "each working day," he said, because there's such high interest in the projects.

To replicate that success, the Terner Center report suggested cutting fees associated with new duplex development, or adding more uniform standards for SB 9 projects to ensure local governments can't attach subjective criteria that discourage applications, such as architectural design requirements or stringent landscaping rules. It also proposed revising a mandate that homeowners who split their lots must live in one of the units for at least three years, a key concession lawmakers made to reduce opposition from organizations worried about gentrification.

Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), author of the legislation, said SB 9 was "never intended to be an overnight fix to our housing shortage."

"We always said not every homeowner would be able, or want, to utilize the tools provided by the bill on Day One," Atkins said in a statement.

"Subdividing a lot, or even just adding an ADU, is a big investment. This bill was never intended to be a sledgehammer approach — it was meant to increase the housing supply over time, and as awareness of the law increases and more homeowners have the ability to embrace the tools, I'm confident that we will see results."

Garcia and other housing experts said slow progress could also be attributed to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, when prices for building materials shot up and homeowners and buyers faced significant market uncertainty. That was followed by high inflation and interest rates.

But other factors could be contributing to sluggish SB 9 interest.

Matthew Lewis, spokesperson for California YIMBY, a housing advocacy organization that supported SB 9, said both ADUs and duplexes have their financial and logistical pros and cons.

ADUs are an ideal way to generate some "passive income" from a renter, Lewis said, and make great homes for aging parents or young adult children.

Duplexes are good for that too, but the additional units can be sold separately for even greater economic opportunity.

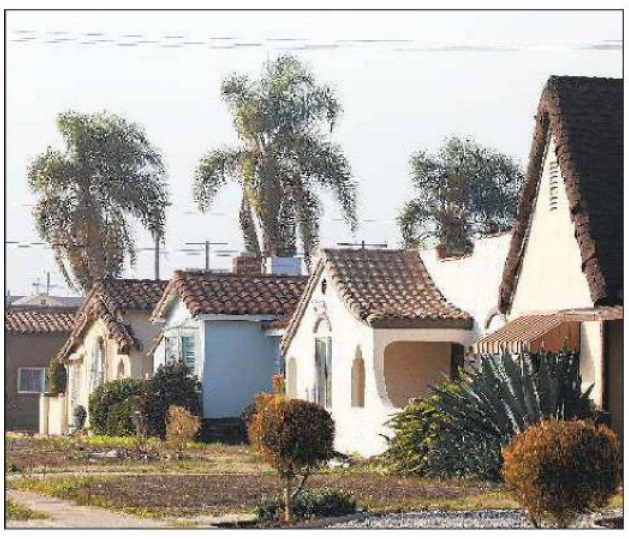
On the other hand, ADUs are typically a property extension of the main home, so it can be difficult or even impossible to separately sell the extra unit. Duplexes require significantly more financing, and the addition of a separate sewer line and water service.

"The reality is people will follow the path of least resistance to building the house they want," Lewis said, adding that it could be worth going back to the drawing board to ensure local governments are doing what they can to ease burdens to duplex development.

Although the Terner Center report offers legislators a limited snapshot of how SB 9 has worked so far, the state is also expected to have more robust data available this summer.

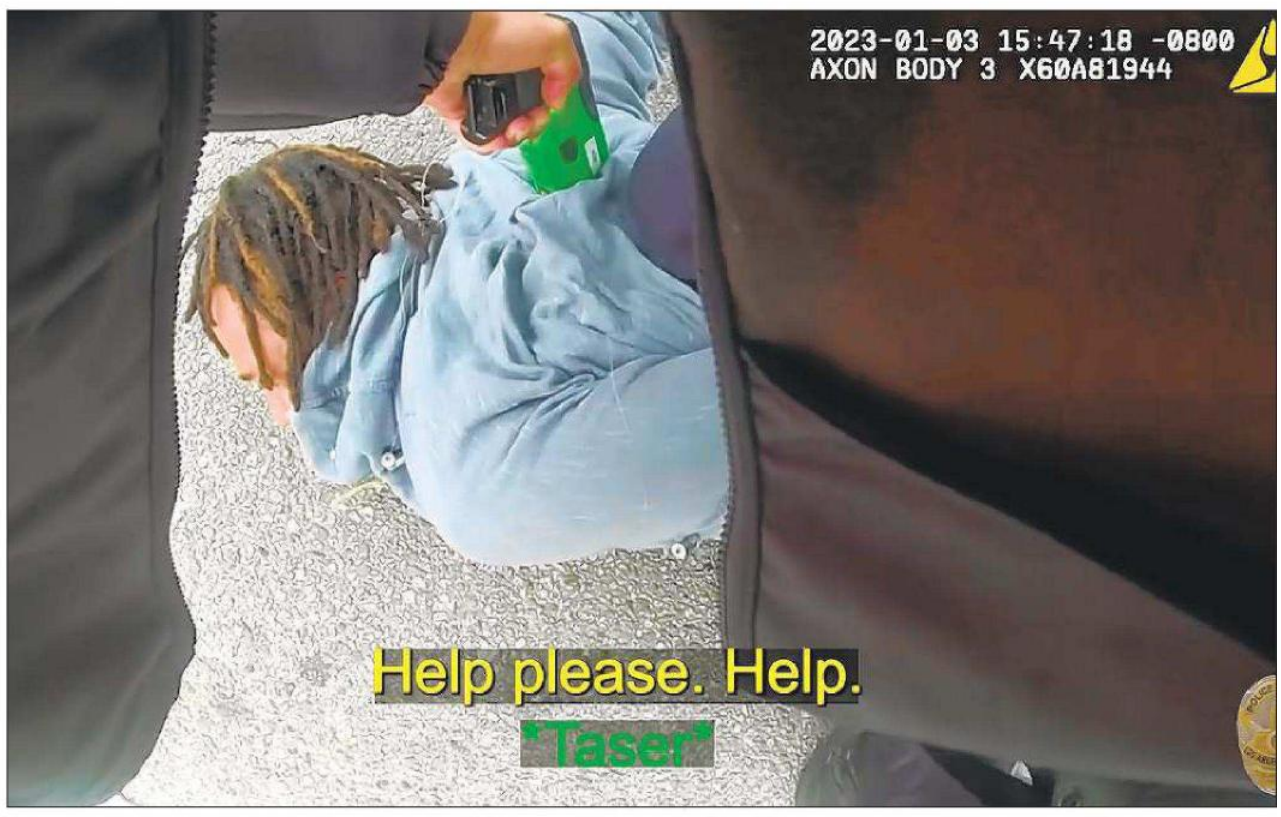
Any attempt to modify SB 9 this year, however, is sure to reignite opposition from many of the dozens of cities and neighborhood associations that tried to block its passage in 2021.

Since then, some cities have gone to great lengths to avoid implementing the law, including the Silicon Valley suburb of Woodside, which declared itself a mountain lion sanctuary and invited a stern warning for compliance by the state attorney general's office.



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

BY NOV. 30, 13 big California cities had received 282 applications for SB 9 projects and had OKd just 53.



LAPD

THE TASING of Keenan Anderson was recorded by police body cameras. LAPD policy does not address how often an officer can use a Taser on a suspect and what to do if the first discharge does not resolve an incident.

Use of Tasers is scrutinized

[**Taser,** from A1]
how often the weapon should be fired.

LAPD policy states that officers "may use the Taser as a reasonable force option to control a suspect when the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others."

There is already much debate about whether Anderson posed the kind of threat to officers that six Taser discharges were necessary, with several policing experts saying it was not.

"Just because he is actively resisting, that doesn't mean he is a threat," said Seth Stoughton, a University of South Carolina law professor and use-of-force expert who reviewed the LAPD body-cam videos.

"He is not a threat of harm to the officers. The only threat is a delay," said Stoughton, a former Florida police officer. "It doesn't appear to me the officers believe the Taser protects them from harm."

LAPD policy attempts to address this distinction, saying Tasers "shall not be used on a suspect or subject who is passively resisting or merely failing to comply with commands." Not responding to verbal commands, the policy states, is not grounds for using a Taser.

Another major question for use-of-force experts concerns the number of times Anderson was tased.

LAPD policy does not address how frequently an officer can use a Taser on a suspect and what to do if the first discharge does not resolve an incident. A 2021 directive urged officers to "avoid repeated Taser applications where practicable to avoid possible injury."

The directive also instructed officers to "continually evaluate the situation they are in and the apparent effectiveness" and, if Taser use isn't working, to "consider transitioning to another" tactic.

According to LAPD policy, the duration of a Taser activation on a suspect is five seconds. "During this period of incapacitation that the suspect/subject experiences, the arrest team should take positions of advantage to immediately control the suspect/subject and take them into custody."

In releasing a video of the tasing of Anderson compiled from officers' body cameras, Chief Michel Moore said that there is no limit on the number of times a Taser can be used in a particular situation and that the actions must be reasonable given the totality of the circumstances.

Some policing experts said the current rules give much latitude — perhaps too much — to officers.

Ed Obayashi, a Northern California deputy, police lawyer and use-of-force expert who reviewed the LAPD's body-cam footage, said the department is among many that have not set limits on how often Tasers are used.

The most problematic repeated uses occur when a person falls into a specific risk category, such as those who are on drugs.

Moore has alleged that Anderson was in an altered state and resisted officers' efforts to detain him. His bloodwork showed the presence of cocaine and cannabis in his system, the chief said.

In the wake of Anderson's death, some community activists have called for new limits on Taser use by officers.

Stoughton said the six uses of the Taser on Anderson are a significant issue. "The more you use it, the higher the risk," he said. The stun gun, he said, was initially conceived as a replacement for deadly force and a response to edge and blunt weapons. "The term 'lazy tasy' has become common. It is as easy as snapping a photo."

A dozen years ago, the Police Executive Research Forum advised law enforcement agencies that people should not be exposed to an electronic control weapon, such as a Taser-branded stun gun, for more than 15 seconds total. "Personnel should be trained to use an ECW for one standard cycle (five seconds) and then evaluate the situation to determine if subsequent cycles are necessary," the guidelines stated.

Some departments have, however, offered more specific rules.

In Eugene, Ore., the "number of Taser discharges against a person should not exceed three, or a total duration of 15 seconds." Eugene police officers are cautioned that "multiple Taser discharges or discharges exceeding the standard five-second duration may increase the risk of injury or death and should be avoided when possible."

In 2020, the International Assn. of Chiefs of Police issued a 20-page report saying that "agencies may wish to consider imposing a limit of three cycles or a total of 15 seconds absent exigent circumstances."

But use-of-force experts caution that when departments set time limits, they are in effect telling their officers to use other means to subdue a subject, which can lead to physical blows.

The LAPD training guidance advises against repeated usage but instructs officers that "because the department recognizes that each tactical situation is unique and that officers must be given the flexibility to resolve tactical situations in the field there is no pre-set limit of number of times the Taser can be used in a particular situation."

Police encountered Anderson around 3:40 p.m. Jan. 3 after he crashed his BMW on Lincoln Boulevard in Venice. Officers say he ran into the busy street afterward, and a motorcycle officer pursued him. He was initially cooperative after he was detained and sat down at an intersection to speak with an officer, but while backup was being called, Anderson bolted into the road again, police said.

Officers then swarmed Anderson, trying to flip him onto his stomach and handcuff him as he declared, "They are trying to kill me," according to police video. It was during this encounter when a Taser was used on him.

Moore said Anderson was a felony hit-and-run suspect who tried to get into another person's car and, in an altered state, resisted officers' efforts to detain him.

The chief said that the first two activations of the Taser, which was fired from afar, "weren't effective" on Anderson and that the stun gun was then directly applied to the man's skin four times. A Times investigation in 2016 found that of the 1,100 times an LAPD officer used a Taser, the weapon worked 53% of the time.

Taser deployments fell from 1,363 in 2016 to 545 in 2020, the most recent year for which the LAPD has released reliable data.

Taser maker Axon Enterprise Inc. has acknowledged the devices might pose a risk to some people and began discouraging targeting the chest and advising officers to aim at a subject's back or, with front shots, nearer the belt. In 2017, it warned that some people might be more susceptible to the effects of the devices.

"These susceptible individuals include the elderly, those with heart conditions, asthma or other pulmonary conditions, and people suffering from excited delirium, profound agitation, severe exhaustion, drug intoxication or chronic drug abuse, and/or over-exertion from physical struggle. In a physiologically or metabolically compromised person, any physiologic or metabolic change may cause or contribute to sudden death," the company stated.

LAPD policy requires suspects who have had Taser darts stuck to their skin to be examined, Moore said, and Los Angeles Fire Department personnel treated Anderson at the scene before taking him to a hospital in Santa Monica, according to a police news release.

After a medical emergency there, Anderson died, the chief said.

The Los Angeles County coroner's office will conduct an autopsy, and extensive testing will determine the cause of his death.

His family is planning its own independent autopsy.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Ali Sahabi

ENGINEERING

Ali Sahabi, Optimum Seismic

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has named Ali Sahabi, Chief Operating Officer and Co-Founder of Optimum Seismic, Inc. to her transition advisory team, which will provide advice and counsel through the first 100 days of her administration. Sahabi, a real estate developer and general engineering contractor, is a lifelong advocate for resilience and sustainability.

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OPINION

EDITORIALS

Los Angeles quietly rolls out curbside composting

Maybe too quietly? This program is a big deal.

This week Los Angeles launched its long-awaited curbside composting program citywide, requiring that residents change how they dispose of food scraps. Starting now, chicken bones, orange peels, coffee grounds, pizza boxes and the like belong in green yard waste bins rather than black trash cans.

But if you failed to notice the policy shift, it's understandable. It was a low-key rollout. The announcement was made via press release and social media posts on Monday, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, when attention to those sorts of things is low. The Los Angeles Public Works Department also sent out basic informational postcards to 710,000 households in the city that get their trash picked up by city trucks, primarily single-family houses or multifamily housing of fewer than four units, but weren't part of the pilot phase. (Most apartments in L.A. are served by independent waste haulers that should be rolling out their own curbside composting programs this year.)

There is more public education planned in the City Council member newsletters, advertising on bus benches and on trash trucks and maybe some targeted home visits. Contrast this to last year when city workers — even a City Council member! — hand-delivered kitchen compost pails and program brochures to 22,000 homes added to the curbside composting pilot program. It was a well-conceived strategy to inform residents about an important program

Now everyone in the city can get free pails, but only by signing up through the L.A. Sanitation website for a pickup appointment at one of the six city yard facilities, the closest of which could be miles away. No one needs to have a city pail to compost kitchen scraps, however.

While it makes sense to do a soft opening of a massive program — we're talking about 1,000 tons of organic waste collected every day — the city must do a harder sell in the coming months.

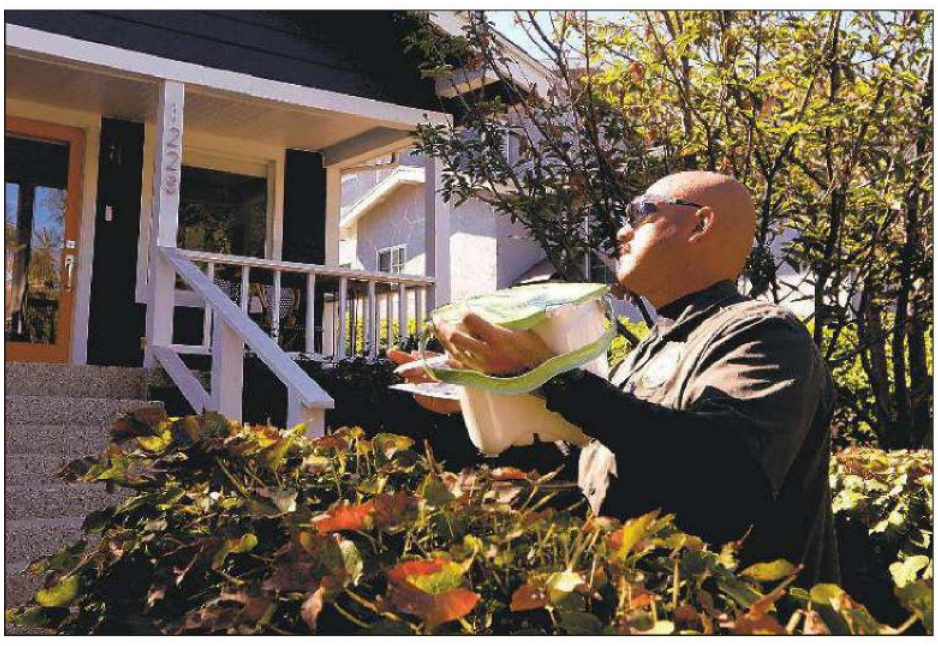
The organics composting program is not just a feel-good service for the residents of this environmentally minded town. Compliance isn't optional. It's mandatory. And if Angelenos don't know about the program or their responsibility, how can they comply? And if they don't comply they could eventually be fined. Yes, there are city workers who peek in trash bins to check for material that should not be in there.

In 2016, lawmakers passed Senate Bill 1383 that requires cities to divert 75% of their organic waste by the end of 2024 to reduce methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas. The composting program was supposed to begin last year, but the city fell behind because of the pandemic. L.A. wasn't the only city to miss the deadline, but it is the largest. Food waste accounts for about 30% of the roughly 3,500 tons of material that the city sends to the landfill every day.

Let's hope the communication this week is just the first notes of what will build to a crescendo of public education throughout 2023. Maybe sanitation workers don't have to go to *every* house and business in this sprawling city to get the word out, but they certainly must loudly trumpet this important program.

The city also needs to be very clear about what materials are allowed in the green bin — and what is not. For example, many people are under the misapprehension that plastic products labeled "compostable" will decompose right along with carrot leaves and stale bread crusts. They can't. Those products require higher temperatures to break down than what is generated in organic composting plants. In fact, compostable plastic can't be recycled either, which means, for the moment, it's just trash.

But food scraps are not trash. They are nutrient-rich organics that when properly processed could be used to improve soil and grow food. And, at last, the second-largest city in the country is prepared to do just that.



Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

A CITY WORKER delivers a compost pail to a resident in Los Feliz in August.

Kent Nishimura Los Angeles Times

GEORGE SANTOS sits in the rear of the House chamber on Jan. 3.

Rep. George Santos is another embarrassment for the GOP

He apparently lied his way into office. Why are so many in the Republican Party willing to tolerate such charlatans?

Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.) quickly became a global punchline when his multiple, contradictory misrepresentations of his background were revealed after he was elected in November. But there's nothing funny about Speaker Kevin McCarthy's refusal to call on Santos to resign, as a few other Republicans have.

Santos was caught in lies about much of his biography. He didn't graduate from — nor apparently even attended — the colleges listed on his resume, didn't work for Goldman Sachs or Citigroup, and does not appear to be Jewish (as he has claimed) or descended from refugees who fled the Holocaust. (Left off the resume was a 2008 fraud charge in Brazil for allegedly using a stolen checkbook; Brazilian authorities recently said they would revive the charge now that they know Santos' whereabouts.) There are also questions about the legality of his fundraising and spending.

Despite various investigations underway, he has been recommended by the House GOP Steering Committee for membership on the Small Business and the Science, Space and Technology committees.

It's small consolation that Santos didn't receive the more prestigious assignments he reportedly coveted on the Financial Services and Foreign Affairs committees. (The Small Business Committee does exercise oversight of the Paycheck Protection Program established in response to business hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.)

Moreover, McCarthy has pooh-poohed complaints about Santos' conduct. Last week the speaker said: "I try to stick by the Constitution. The voters elected him to serve. If there is a concern, and he has to go through the Ethics [Committee], we'll let him move through that." This week the speaker acknowledged that he "always had a few questions" about Santos' resume.

Santos is the subject of a complaint filed with the Ethics Committee by two Democratic House members, who called for an investigation of Santos "for violations of the Ethics in Government Act by failing to file timely, accurate, and complete financial disclosure reports as required by law." He is also being investigated by local prosecutors on Long Island and, according to the New York Times, by federal prosecutors as well. Though Santos has admitted to "embellishing" his resume, he has otherwise denied any wrongdoing, saying, "I am not a criminal."

Santos is obviously entitled to due process and the presumption of innocence, but the baroque misrepresentations he has admitted to — so-called "embellishments" — make clear that he doesn't belong in the House. McCarthy, however, has refused to grasp that point, perhaps because a Santos resignation would shrink the Republicans' already small House majority. Last week, McCarthy mused that "a lot of people here" had fabricated part of their resumes.

It's true that other politicians have exaggerated their credentials, including President Biden years ago, which is why it's unlikely that Congress will approve a Santos-inspired bill to require candidates for Congress to file information about their educational background, military service and employment history. A candidate who knowingly and willfully provided false information would be punished with a $100,000 fine, one year in prison, or both. (The legislation could also pose constitutional problems. For example, the Supreme Court has said that some laws that punish lying violate the 1st Amendment.) Still, Santos' fabrications are so extensive and audacious as to put him in a mind-boggling class by himself.

Even so, Santos' lies seem trivial compared with some of the outlandish and offensive statements made by other House Republicans, such as Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, who has been assigned to House Homeland Security and Oversight committees after losing her committee assignments in the previous Congress. It's clear that fringe figures and fabulists are welcome in the new House Republican majority.

LETTERS

Drew Angerer Getty Images

ACTIVISTS in New York rally in 2019 for holding fossil fuel companies accountable for climate change.

Exxon knew. What to do now

Re "Oil giant shielded climate expertise," Jan. 13

Your article makes a brief mention of how the language of climate denial has shifted toward delay. Not only did the Exxon Mobil Corp. know what it was doing when it spread disinformation in the past, it is still doing it. Today this disinformation takes the form of delay, distraction and division.

It's time for Exxon and other fossil fuel companies to be stripped of their social license to operate. Financial institutions like JP Morgan Chase (the largest investor in fossil fuels) need to retract all funding and starve these corporations until they abandon fossil fuels and adopt a renewable-only energy portfolio.

No punitive measure could ever fit the damage Exxon has done to human society and its ability to continue on this planet, but forcing it to become part of the solution would at least be a start.

Joseph DeRose
Los Angeles

::

Back in 1985, my 10-year-old son came home from school and asked, "Mom, did you know that one day the Earth could get so hot we couldn't live on it?"

I didn't ask him how this idea came up. How I wish I had. Instead, I told myself what I wanted to hear: that if the planet ever did get that hot, humans would know what to do.

Exxon told us what it wanted us to hear. It chose to "emphasize the uncertainty" and talk about "unproven climate models" or "sheer speculation." But in 1981, Exxon's own models predicted average temperature rises of about 0.36 of a degree Fahrenheit per decade.

Now, in 2023, we can see temperatures have risen about 0.32 of a degree per decade since 1981. It's time to stop burning fossil fuels.

Penelope Mann
Claremont

::

Will our representatives hold Exxon (and others) accountable? Will they push the U.S. to be a leader in the fight to preserve our planet? Will they put a price on carbon and incentivize sustainable living?

Thanks to the deliberate, decades-long disinformation campaign of the fossil fuel industry, we've run out of time. I hope every single Times reader contacts their representatives to demand accountability and to urge action.

Shani Murray
Placentia

A brilliant, failed leader

Re "What I learned about myself at the Nixon museum," Opinion, Jan. 16

I have a personal anecdote to add to Nicholas Goldberg's column on his reevaluation of President Nixon.

Years ago, I was surfing TV late at night and stumbled on Nixon being introduced to an audience in New York. This was many years after he'd left office in disgrace, and the subject was U.S.-China relations.

He proceeded to give an hour-and-a-half talk that was absolutely brilliant, giving a history of China as well as our interactions with it, with cogent analyses and insightful predictions of potential problems. His answers to questions were of equal depth and insight.

I was stunned, and all I could think of was the sad, sad waste of a mind and experience because of his emotional and psychological failings.

Meg Quinn Coulter
Los Angeles

::

As a Vietnam War veteran, I have two thoughts on Goldberg and his visit to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum.

First, under Nixon's watch, more than 21,000 Americans lost their lives, and many more were wounded in Vietnam. I witnessed some of these people die. This happened after he claimed before the 1968 election that he had a secret plan to end the war.

Second, he never publicly and clearly admitted guilt in the Watergate scandal, which tells us everything we need to know about his credibility.

Rudy Estrada
Downey

::

Too bad Goldberg did not mention Title IX, which Nixon signed into law in 1972. That law prohibited sex discrimination in any education programs receiving federal funds, most notably giving women an equal chance at athletic competition in schools.

This changed the lives of countless girls and women.

Terry Kennedy
Claremont

You own it

Re "We pay for their bad policy," letters, Jan. 17

A reader takes issue with a column by LZ Granderson referring to Social Security and Medicare as "entitlements" and thinks this is a linguistic trap. He suggests that they should be referred to as "benefits" instead.

I couldn't disagree more. "Benefit" implies a gift. "Entitlement" contains the word "title," meaning you own it. When it comes to something paid for over decades of employment, that is absolutely true.

Evan Puziss
Mar Vista

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OP-ED

Chatbots belong in our classrooms

Banning ChatGPT is like keeping students from using Wikipedia or calculators

By Angela Duckworth and Lyle Ungar

Will chatbots that can generate sophisticated prose destroy education as we know it? We hope so.

New York City's Department of Education recently banned the use of ChatGPT, a bot created by OpenAI with a technology called the Generative Pretrained Transformer. "While the tool may be able to provide quick and easy answers to questions," says the official statement, "it does not build critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, which are essential for academic and lifelong success."

We disagree; it can and should.

Banning such use of artificial intelligence from the classroom is an understandable but nearsighted response. Instead, we must find a way forward in which such technologies complement, rather than substitute for, student thinking. One day soon, GPT and similar AI models could be to essay writing what calculators are to calculus.

We know that GPT is the ultimate cheating tool: It can write fluent essays for any prompt, write computer code from English descriptions, prove math theorems and correctly answer many questions on law and medical exams.

Banning ChatGPT is like prohibiting students from using Wikipedia or spell-checkers. Even if it were the "right" thing to do in principle, it is impossible in practice. Students will find ways around the ban, which of course will necessitate a further defensive response from teachers and administrators, and so on. It's hard to believe that an escalating arms race between digitally fluent teenagers and their educators will end in a decisive victory for the latter.

AI is not coming. AI is *here*. And it cannot be banned.

So, what should we do?

Educators have always wanted their students to know and to think. ChatGPT beautifully demonstrates how knowing and thinking are not the same thing. Knowing is committing facts to memory; thinking is applying reason to those facts. The chatbot knows everything on the internet but doesn't really *think* anything. That is, it cannot do what the education philosopher John Dewey, more than a century ago, called reflective thinking: "active, persistent and careful consideration of any belief or supposed form of knowledge in the light of the grounds that support it."

Technology has for quite a while been making rote knowledge less important. Why memorize what the 14th element in the periodic table is, or the 10 longest rivers in the world, or Einstein's birthday, when you can just Google it? At the same time, the economic incentives for thinking, as opposed to knowing, have increased. It is no surprise that the average student thinks better but knows less than counterparts from a century ago.

Chatbots may well accelerate the trend toward valuing critical thinking. In a world where computers can fluently (if often incorrectly) answer any question, students (and the rest of us) need to get *much* better at deciding what questions to ask and how to fact-check the answers the program generates.

How, specifically, do we encourage young people to use their minds when authentic thinking is so hard to tell apart from its simulacrum? Teachers, of course, will still want to proctor old-fashioned, in-person, no-chatbot-allowed exams.

But we must also figure out how to do something new: how to use tools like GPT to catalyze, not cannibalize, deeper thinking. Just like a Google search, GPT often generates text that is fluent and plausible — but wrong. So using it requires the same cognitive heavy lifting that writing does: deciding what questions to ask, formulating a thesis, asking more questions, generating an outline, picking which points to elaborate and which to drop, looking for facts to support the arguments, finding appropriate references to back them up and polishing the text.

GPT and similar AI technology can help with those tasks, but they can't (at least in the near future) put them all together. Writing a good essay still requires lots of human thought and work. Indeed, writing *is* thinking, and authentically good writing is authentically good thinking.

One approach is to focus on the process as much as the end result. For instance, teachers might require — and assess — four drafts of an essay, as the writer John McPhee has suggested. After all, as McPhee said, "the essence of the process is revision." Each draft gets feedback (from the teacher, from peers or even from a chatbot), then the students produce the next draft, and so on.

Will AI one day surpass human beings not just in knowing but in thinking? Maybe, but such a future has yet to arrive. For now, students and the rest of us must think for ourselves.

GPT is not the first, nor the last, technological advance that would seem to threaten the flowering of reason, logic, creativity and wisdom. In "Phaedrus," Plato wrote that Socrates lamented the invention of writing: "It will implant forgetfulness in their souls; they will cease to exercise memory because they rely on that which is written, calling things to remembrance no longer from within themselves, but by means of external marks." Writing, Socrates thought, would enable the semblance of wisdom in a way that the spoken word would not.

Like any tool, GPT is an enemy of thinking only if we fail to find ways to make it our ally.

Angela Duckworth is a psychology professor at the University of Pennsylvania who studies character development in adolescence. Lyle Ungar is a computer science professor at the University of Pennsylvania who focuses on artificial intelligence.

Gregory Bull Associated Press

A federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer in Escondido, Calif.

How D.A.s can protect immigrants

Amid harsh federal policies, prosecutors should earn noncitizens' trust.

By George Gascón and Miriam Aroni Krinsky

In response to mounting pressure to address the influx of migrants attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border, President Biden introduced a slate of new harsh policies earlier this month. That includes the expansion of a Trump-era policy to turn away asylum-seekers escaping persecution, an approach that Biden had previously criticized.

This decision comes amid historic levels of migration to the U.S. and at a time when the response to this crisis by federal and state elected officials has been cruel and chaotic. Rather than grapple with a serious and pressing problem, some have instead used migrants as political pawns by busing them across the country and initiated baseless efforts to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas.

As immigrants ourselves, we understand the devastation that inhumane and uncertain policies will bring. Like our own families, many migrants working their way through Latin America right now in the hopes of entering the U.S. may not have wanted to leave behind family, friends and the only homes they have known. They left because they had no other choice.

While immigration is an issue that can be solved only with bold federal leadership, local elected prosecutors have a critical role to play in responding to policies that can erode trust and thus endanger public safety.

One of us is currently a prosecutor, and the other is a former prosecutor. We know that anti-immigrant policies aren't just inhumane; they're also dangerous. Our criminal legal system depends on all members of the community to report crimes, cooperate with investigators, testify in court and join efforts to prevent future violence — but we cannot expect people to collaborate with a government they don't trust.

Research has shown that Latinx people in the U.S., including both immigrants and U.S.-born citizens, are less likely to contact or offer information to the police if they have been the victim of, or witness to, a crime if they are afraid that officers will look into their or a loved one's immigration status.

In Los Angeles, 60% of violent crimes never lead to an arrest. We must break down any barrier to detecting, solving and preventing crime, including cruel mandates that could deter participation from the third of the city's residents who are immigrants, and the estimated 2.2 million non-citizens in the L.A. area who are at risk of deportation.

Elected prosecutors should prevent their local criminal legal systems from becoming a tool to target immigrants. They can do so by making sure immigrant victims, witnesses and defendants are able to enter courthouses without fear of being apprehended by immigration authorities, and by ensuring that witnesses aren't asked about immigration status. And they can work with others to enact legislation or judicial orders barring immigration agents from making courthouse arrests; assign victims' advocates to escort fearful undocumented witnesses or victims through the courthouse; and encourage law enforcement partners to refuse to participate in inhumane immigration arrests.

Further, noncitizens who are convicted of nonviolent misdemeanor convictions, which typically carry minimal penalties for citizens, often face a host of penalties beyond their actual sentences, such as apprehension by immigration authorities and deportation.

Several prosecutors' offices, including the L.A. district attorney, have addressed this problem by requiring that prosecutors consider the immigration consequences of charging decisions and, wherever possible, try to avoid or mitigate immigration penalties. These policies are key in guaranteeing that immigrants, like other community members, are held accountable for what they've done, not punished for who they are.

District attorneys should also establish fair, transparent policies for U visas, which provide a legal pathway for noncitizens who report crimes to law enforcement to stay in the country. Federal law grants local prosecutors significant discretion to determine who is able to receive U visas in their jurisdictions, and they should use that power to make U visas widely accessible for eligible crime victims.

We think about the individuals and decisions that made it possible for our own immigrant families to come to this country. While addressing national immigration challenges will require the president and Congress to grapple with needed reforms, there are others who have the power to make life-altering decisions that affect individuals *now*. We hope that every elected prosecutor will embrace their role in protecting and building trust with the immigrants in their communities, and promote everyone's safety and well-being.

George Gascón is the Los Angeles County district attorney. Miriam Aroni Krinsky is founder and executive director of Fair and Just Prosecution and a former federal prosecutor.

Jacquelyn Martin Associated Press

THE ANNIVERSARY of Roe vs. Wade on Sunday will be no cause for celebration as rights erode.

After 50 years, abortion rights are set back to zero

NICHOLAS GOLDBERG

This should've been a moment for celebration.

A time to celebrate the continuing expansion of American rights, and especially a woman's right to make her own choices about her body and her future. A time to celebrate the Constitution as not merely the legalistic, literal words laid down by the 18th century founders, but rather as a dynamic document that can speak to society's 21st century needs.

But no. On the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision declaring abortion to be a woman's constitutional right, when there should have been dancing in the streets, we are instead still reeling in shock at how the clock has been turned backward.

With the court's radical about-face in Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization last June, which overturned Roe as if it had never existed, the country has been suddenly tossed into the past.

It was Jan. 22, 1973, when Roe was handed down.

In those days not only was abortion not a right, but same-sex marriage was still 40 years away and "sodomy" was illegal in many states. Laws banning interracial marriage and guaranteeing the right to use contraception without fear of cops marching into your bedroom had been struck down only a few years earlier.

In 1973, women couldn't easily get credit cards in their own names and could be fired if they became pregnant. Some states made it difficult for them to serve on juries. Elective abortion was illegal in 30 states.

Is that the world we want to go back to? Is that the direction the Supreme Court is taking us?

On the day the Roe decision was announced — a cool, lightly rainy day in Washington — Alan F. Guttmacher, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, sounded exultant: "By this act, hundreds of thousands of American women every year will be spared the medical risks and emotional horrors of back street and self induced abortions."

Many people believed the abortion debate was over.

"The court's 7-2 ruling could bring to an end the emotional and divisive public argument over what should always have been an intensely private and personal matter," editorialized the New York Times.

That couldn't have been more wrong.

The Los Angeles Times offered a more accurate glimpse into the future when it quoted Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Washington, saying: "I do not believe we can relax our stance on such a widespread evil lest our people think that because of the Supreme Court's decision, abortion no longer is murder."

That was a declaration of war.

And so began 50 years during which antiabortion forces never backed down, never gave up hope of overturning Roe. Speaking on behalf, they said, of millions of unborn babies, the "right to life" movement spread well beyond Catholics to include a broader religious right and others.

They tried to humanize the so-called unborn. They passed restrictive laws seeking to chip away, state by state, at Roe (as well as the subsequent court rulings that upheld Roe's basic conclusions). They blocked abortion clinics. They passed out photos of aborted fetuses. Extremists threatened harassment, vandalism and violence, and sometimes carried it out.

Abortion opponents tried to associate their cause with the civil rights movement, comparing Roe to the Supreme Court's 1857 Dred Scott decision denying citizenship and constitutional rights to African Americans. They compared deaths from abortion to the Holocaust.

I accept that most in this movement sincerely believe that innocent lives are being taken. I don't think that the sole aim of most abortion opponents is to "control women's bodies."

But I don't believe some Americans have the right to tell others how to live their lives, or to impose their own morality on women's most personal decisions.

A pregnant woman should be allowed to determine her own future and make decisions about her own body. The rights of a fetus — whether you consider it "alive" or not in its early development — don't outweigh those of the mother.

Furthermore, children should be born to parents who want them and can care for them.

A substantial majority of Americans support abortion rights and had hoped the court would uphold Roe. According to the Guttmacher Institute (named for the doctor quoted above), there were more than 900,000 legal, induced abortions in the U.S. in 2020.

But the overturning of Roe also has ramifications that go beyond abortion. Roe was not a stand-alone case, but was one in a long line of decisions protecting Americans from government interference in personal, private, intimate decisions involving physical autonomy and bodily integrity, family relationships, child rearing and procreation. That includes the right to use contraception, to marry whom you want and to engage in the sort of consensual sex you want in your own home.

Thanks to Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr.'s ruling in the Dobbs case, however, these decisions are all potentially endangered because the rights they confer are not specifically enumerated in the Constitution and may not be "deeply rooted," as Alito put it, in the nation's history and traditions.

Alito tried to suggest those decisions were not imperiled, but they obviously are, though they have made this a better, freer, fairer country.

At this particular moment in history, when we should be celebrating a half-century of progress, it is depressing to be grieving instead for rights that have been withdrawn, and for the greater distance we now have to travel if the United States is ever to achieve its twin goals of liberty and equality.

The most that can be said on this sad anniversary is that the fight for reproductive rights will continue, despite the court's ruling. For another 50 years, if that's what it takes.

@Nick_Goldberg

Latino vintners find their place in industry

[**Wine,** from A1]
didn't try the wine; he just got into his car and drove away.

Sometimes Torres, 42, gets the feeling that his sleek, modern tasting room may not meet people's expectations of what it means to be a Latino winemaker.

"I feel like there is this stereotype. People think, 'Oh, man, we are going to be in there, and this fool is going to be playing 'Chente' and there is going to be a piñata,' " Torres said, referring to legendary Mexican singer Vicente Fernández.

"I grew up with so many influences. I grew up with surfer, skater kids in Cambria," he said. There's nothing wrong with Chente and piñatas, he added, but his identity has been forged by countless experiences.

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California is home to an estimated 45 Latino-owned wineries. They make up only a fraction of the state's 4,500 producers, but their numbers are growing, said Alex Saragoza, who is writing a book on the rise of Mexican winemakers in the United States, primarily in California. Naturally, those winemakers hope to capture some of the expanding Latino market, as well as a bigger share of the general market. (In 2013, Latinos consumed an estimated 46.6 million cases of wine in the U.S., a figure that's expected to double in 10 years.)

But that hope requires them to make complicated decisions about how they market and brand their wine in a white-dominated industry that's long been associated with Eurocentric refinement.

These decisions take on a greater poignancy in a state where the industry thrives on fruit picked by Latino farmworkers, whose stories historically have been relegated to scraps of oral history.

Who is most likely to drink our wines? Do we strive to make our wines accessible or focus solely on quality no matter the cost to the consumer? Do we spotlight our family story, or do we simply let the wine speak for itself? And why does a Latino winemaker have to choose?

Every Latino vintner has their own story of how they made it. Some more-established businesses — Ceja Vineyards, Robledo Family Winery and Maldonado Vineyards — were born in the fields of Napa and Sonoma counties. They're run by the children and grandchildren of immigrants who labored in the vineyards, some as part of the bracero program, which brought millions of Mexican agricultural guest workers to the U.S. between 1942 and 1964.

Others, like Torres, arrived in this country without legal status and worked in hospitality — sometimes as servers at high-end restaurants — where they were exposed to wine, fell in love with it and worked their way up from the cellar.

A few are the children of Latin American immigrants who prospered in lucrative corporate careers that afforded them the opportunity to travel and discover their passion for wine before launching their own labels.

For many of these vintners, their heritage is front and center and intimately intertwined with their brands, with names like Los Braceros or El Rey. For others, who want consumers to solely focus on quality, heritage comes second.

At Top, a winery in Paso Robles, Elena Martinez and Stanley Barrios make a small collection of Rhone varietal wines, purchasing grapes from some of the most prestigious vineyards in the region. In 2014, they made their first eight barrels of wine — about 200 cases. In 2021, they produced 135 barrels, about 3,800 cases of wine. Their 2019 Poise, a Roussanne, is listed on the menu of the French Laundry in Yountville for $100 a bottle.

Martinez, 39, and Barrios, 40, are the children of Latin American immigrants who were born and raised in the Los Angeles area. But that's not mentioned on their website, on their bottles or in their tasting room, a sleek Midcentury space.

A bottle of wine at Top, named after the spinning toy that both owners played with as children, can be pricey. Their well-balanced 2019 Rosé of Grenache is $65. Nearly all their wine is sold exclusively to wine club members, most of whom are not Latino.

"We don't think quality has a race or gender," Martinez said. "We've worked so hard at being an organization that is reputable for quality and hospitality, and a bonus happens to be that we are Latino."

While the couple's *Latinidad* isn't at the forefront, Martinez said, it does inform their entrepreneurial spirit. Launching their wine business was a way of telling their parents, "Thank you for your struggles."

Nancy Ulloa, of Ulloa Cellars, takes a different approach, focusing on Latino consumers with her marketing and prices. Ulloa said she determined the price — $33 a bottle — based on other, similar small-batch wine that usually goes for about $45. It's what her siblings and parents could afford, she said.

"I want it to be an inclusive experience," she added. "I want to be able to include people like my parents who are often overlooked or neglected, people who don't think they are capable of understanding wine."

Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

EDGAR TORRES, top, became the first Mexican American vintner in Paso Robles in 2005. Above right, grapes on the vine at Top, a winery in Paso Robles owned by Elena Martinez and Stanley Barrios. Above left, Martinez and Barrios thin vines.

A 36-year-old immigrant from Guadalajara, Mexico, Ulloa specializes in creating small batches of white wines, such as Albariño, Grüner Veltliner, Verdejo, Sémillon and Pinot Blanc.

Her mystical labels feature drawings of women, including her mother, and each bottle is inscribed with an affirmation in Spanish, such as "*Todo lo que toco se convierte en oro*" — "Everything I touch becomes gold." In 2021, she made 300 cases of wine, and most of her sales are online.

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Martin Reyes, the first master of wine of Mexican descent — a certification issued by the Institute of Masters of Wine in the United Kingdom — likes to say that the "Hispanic community has had a relationship" with wine "that is every bit as long as any European relationship."

In 1524, conquistador Hernán Cortés signed a decree stating that all landowning settlers who were slave owners had quotas for planting Spanish grape vines.

But years later, Spanish producers began to feel threatened by the success of vineyards in the Americas. Under pressure, in 1595 King Philip II of Spain prohibited almost all new wine grape cultivation in Mexico, limiting it solely to sacramental wine for Catholic parishes.

"The country with the largest Hispanic influence in the U.S. could have had wine as part of its history to the same degree as other countries," Reyes said. "But by a quirk of fate, it didn't."

Reyes says wine falls in line with the warmth of Latino gatherings.

"What is wine about? Conviviality. Nothing could be more Latino than wine," Reyes said. "Wine is so Latino, it hurts."

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Everardo Robledo, chief executive of Robledo Family Winery in Sonoma, is a fourth-generation member of a Mexican American family devoted to viticulture. His parents launched the first winery in the U.S. established by Mexican migrant vineyard workers on their own land.

The family left Michoacan to work in the vineyards under the bracero program. In 1968, the current family patriarch, Reynaldo Robledo Sr., was a teenager when he joined his father and ended up living in a labor camp in Napa.

He went from working in the vineyards to becoming a master grafter and eventually owning land and opening his tasting room.

"In that time there weren't many of us Mexicans," Reynaldo Robledo said in Spanish. "But at one point, I went to teach grafting to the French, the Spanish and Moroccans in France."

The Robledos produced their first vintage in 1992, a Pinot Noir from Los Carneros, in Napa. They launched their commercial wine production from their estate grapes in 1997 in Sonoma and opened their tasting room in 2001.

On a recent fall afternoon, Reynaldo Robledo sat at the head of a long, hand-crafted wooden table in his family's tasting room, an homage to Mexican culture, which is prominent in his wine's branding. Wearing a black cowboy hat, plaid shirt and cowboy boots, the 71-year-old sipped on a 2019 El Rey, a Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine was made by his children in tribute to him.

Music from the Mexican rock band Maná emanated from the speakers. Papel picado flags were hanging from the ceiling, and the walls were filled with photos of family and history, including an image of him next to then-Mexican President Felipe Calderón and President Obama during a 2010 White House visit.

> 'I want to be able to include people like my parents who are often overlooked or neglected.'
>
> — NANCY ULLOA, of Ulloa Cellars, on how she sets her prices

Soon after opening their tasting room, Maria de La Luz Robledo and daughter Vanessa Robledo started hosting events featuring their wine alongside traditional Mexican food, often cooked by Maria. Their Sauvignon Blanc was served with ceviche. Their Pinot Noir was paired with pozole; their Chardonnay, with fried chicken empanadas.

"We did the pairings so people didn't have to think of, 'What am I going to pair with our chile relleno?' " Reynaldo Robledo said. The family produces 20,000 cases of wine annually under the Robledo label. Bottles of their wine sell for $22 to $125. Today, about 40% of visitors and wine club members connected to the winery are of Latino heritage.

Amelia Morán Ceja, the first Mexican American woman to be president of a winery, also has a following for her cooking demonstrations in the Bay Area, where she paired and promoted Ceja Vineyards wines with traditional Mexican fare and other international cuisines.

In 1967, then-12-year-old Morán Ceja moved to the Napa Valley, where she and her parents worked in the vineyards. She met her future husband while they were picking grapes, and the two of them and her in-laws eventually pooled enough money to buy their first parcel of land in 1983 in Los Carneros, an American viticultural area that includes land in Sonoma and Napa counties and is known for cooler-climate grapes such as chardonnay and pinot noir. The Ceja brand launched in 2001, and today the winery produces 3,500 cases annually. The price range per bottle — $35 to $150 — varies, depending on the variety.

When Morán Ceja started, she was told by a renowned winemaker that marketing to Latinos and other people of color didn't make sense because they "didn't have discretionary income for luxury products."

She ignored him.

"We knew from the very beginning that our bicultural identity was going to play a major role," she said.

Morán Ceja wants consumers to know that her winery provides a pesticide-free work environment. Many of its fieldworkers have been with the family company for years, and in 2016, Morán Ceja received the Dolores Huerta 2016 Farmworker Justice Award for her advocacy work on farmworker protections.

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Latino winemakers are juggling a host of issues. All of them worry about how to get their wine to stand out in an oversaturated market. Others are concerned with how to make the wine world more welcoming to Latinos. Some agitate to provide better work conditions for the skilled farmworkers who tend the grapes or work in the cellars, just as their grandparents once did.

On a recent afternoon, at the Mondavi Farmworker Center in Napa, most of the Mexican farmworkers eating pozole in the dining hall sounded surprised to hear that some of the region's winery owners are of Mexican heritage.

"Really?" Eulogio Lopez responded. The 35-year-old from the state of Oaxaca works for a vineyard management company in Napa, making $19.50 an hour.

He said he doesn't know who owns the vineyards. Most of his interactions are with the *mayordomos* — mostly men, in charge of the crews. Some of them treat him well; others, not so much. Most are Latinos, Lopez said.

That doesn't come as a surprise to Gabriela Fernandez, 29, a Napa native who created and hosts the Big Sip podcast, which highlights people of color in wine, food, health, tech and the arts. While owners like the Ceja family stand out as positive examples, she said, discrimination and less-than-ideal farmworker conditions persist.

Fernandez is also a board member of Hispanics in Wine, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting, amplifying and supporting Hispanics and people of Latin American heritage in the beverage and hospitality business. It's incumbent on all vintners — regardless of ethnicity — to ensure their farmworkers are treated well, she said. But Latino winery owners and vintners, she says, carry a greater responsibility because of the shared experiences dealing with inequities.

"To be a Latino, Hispano or someone who identifies within that scope, and directly place burdens and microaggressions to people of your same cultural identity — it's gross," she said.

In 2021, Hispanics in Wine launched its first LatinX State of the Wine Industry Summit, where Fernandez helped put together a panel on experiences in vineyard stewardship and workers' rights called "Voices of the Vineyard." But it was hard to get some workers to take part in the panel. They were too scared, fearing repercussions for speaking up, Fernandez said.

Before the group formed in 2020, there was no centralized place to connect Latino wine professionals in the U.S. Now the group has more than 100 members, from sommeliers to vintners. They engage with Latino professionals who are interested in navigating the wine industry, said Lydia Richards, a co-founder of Hispanics in Wine who is a certified sommelier and owner of Vino Concierge.

"We see this potential that nobody is addressing," said Richards, who identifies as Afro Latina, lives in New York and is originally from Panama. "The consumer is there. He or she has always been there, but nobody has done the effort to really market to them — specifically bigger and larger companies."

Manny Gonzalez worked in Latino marketing in the wine and spirits industry for 17 years and says the wine category in the U.S. "is still under development with the Latino consumer. But we know that they are willing to spend dollars on super-premium quality products."

The evolution of premium tequila makes for a good comparison, Gonzalez said.

Twenty-five years ago, tequila was dominated by Cuervo Gold — "known as the quickest way to get drunk." Now the bestselling tequila brands are of premium quality, and data show Latinos are willing to spend top dollar, which can range from $104 to $119, for Don Julio 1942.

"I think we'll get there with wine," Gonzalez said. "We're going to see that same evolution in the U.S., but it doesn't happen overnight."

CALIFORNIA

Photographs by GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

ADAM GONZALES, 46, of Planada, Calif., walks along Miles Creek near East Childs Avenue, where storms led the creek to overflow.

State gets some time to dry off

Rain has tapered off and is expected to be below average the next two weeks

BY LUKE MONEY

A series of atmospheric river storms that dropped record-breaking rain and unleashed chaos across California will end with a whimper this week, as officials work to tabulate the epic rainfall.

Downtown San Francisco received 18.09 inches of rain from Dec. 26 through Monday, the most in a 22-day span since 1862. Oakland and Stockton saw more rain fall from Dec. 26 to Jan. 10 than in any other 16-day period on record.

The experience of the past few weeks does not necessarily indicate how the rest of the winter will play out, though.

Last year, "We started out with really healthy early precipitation and snowpack and then the proverbial tap was turned off and we had a phenomenally dry January, February and March ... and ended up really continuing with protracted drought," said climate scientist Noah Diffenbaugh, a professor and senior fellow at Stanford University.

"The way we get most of our precipitation here in California is in these atmospheric rivers. And, really, the number of atmospheric rivers is a pretty good metric of whether we have a dry year, a normal year or a wet year," he said during a panel discussion Wednesday.

Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA, said precipitation over the next two-plus weeks "is likely to be below average for most/all" of California.

"This will give the state a needed opportunity to dry out, for rivers to recede, and for folks in the mountains to dig out from feet of snow," he wrote Tuesday on Twitter.

The latest storm, a drizzler compared with the powerful deluges that have hammered the state for the better part of a month, moved into the San Francisco Bay Area on Wednesday evening, according to the National Weather Service.

It was expected to "bring a quick shot of rain," with up to half an inch possible in higher elevation areas, said Dalton Behringer, a meteor- [See **Rain,** B3]

ANGEL CAMPOS, 20, left, helps friend Mauricio Soto, 50, dispose of debris Wednesday in Planada, where no more atmospheric rivers are in the immediate forecast.

CAPITOL JOURNAL

Despite what GOP says, there is a stream of state water projects

GEORGE SKELTON
IN SACRAMENTO

California voters approved a ballyhooed $7.5-billion bond issue eight-plus years ago thinking the state would build dams and other vital water facilities. But it hasn't built zilch. True or false?

That's the rap: The voters were taken. The state can't get its act together.

Republicans and agriculture interests in particular make that charge, but the complaint also is widespread throughout the state.

There's some truth in the allegation. But it's basically a bum rap.

No dams have been built, that's true. But one will be and two will be expanded. And hundreds of other smaller projects have been completed.

It is true that government bureaucracies at all levels move at a glacial pace. I've always thought that's because agency heads are too skittish politically. They're pressured by their elected bosses not to make them look bad. So, they creep along cautiously.

Also, there's no profit motive to spur swift government action, unlike in the private sector. But the private sector isn't always a great example of competence either. Southwest Airlines demonstrated that over the holidays and Pacific Gas & Electric Co. constantly screws up in accidentally igniting wildfires.

Republicans last week blasted Democrats for alleged inaction on the 2014 bond act, Proposition 1, which passed by a lopsided 2-1 ratio. Hardly anyone pays attention to Republicans anymore in Sacra- [See **Skelton,** B2]

FAMILY PROBES DEATH IN BAJA

Elliot Blair's wife and relatives believe the lawyer was the victim of a 'brutal crime.'

BY NATHAN SOLIS

The death of an Orange County public defender at a Baja California resort last week, labeled an "unfortunate accident" by Mexican authorities, has raised several unanswered questions with little to no investigation by local police, the man's family said in a statement.

Elliot Blair, 33, died Saturday in Rosarito while staying at Las Rocas Resort and Spa with his wife, Kimberly Williams, to celebrate their first wedding anniversary, according to a statement from his family.

The narrative presented by Mexican authorities leaves too many unanswered questions, Blair's and Williams' families said in a joint statement, adding that they would hire a private investigation firm and an independent forensic pathologist to conduct a medical examination and toxicology analysis.

"The family, which has extensive legal training in criminal law, wholeheartedly believes based on their initial investigation that Elliot was the victim of a brutal crime," the statement said.

Mexican authorities told the Orange County Register that Blair fell from "a third-story floor" and that his death was accidental. The Spanish-language publication Noticias BC reported that a man of Blair's description fell from a fourth-floor [See **Family,** B4]

Can OC Weekly be given new life?

New owner aspires to revive the alternative paper that closed in '19. Let it rest in peace.

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

The fluorescent lights were bright and stark in the barren office near John Wayne Airport in Irvine where I met LA Weekly publisher Brian Calle.

It felt like a morgue because it was: Before us was the corpse of my journalism past.

Spread out on the floor were boxes containing the entire run of OC Weekly, the alternative newspaper that shut down the day before Thanksgiving in 2019 after 24 years of comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable in a region that sure needs it.

It's where I started my career in 2000 as a freelancer with no previous journalism experience. I moved up within the paper to become a reporter, food critic, columnist, managing editor, [See **Arellano,** B5]

Mongols biker who killed cop could be freed
Man held since 2014 for slaying in raid and given a 10-year prison term Tuesday may be released in March. **B3**

Caregiver gets life in prison
Nursing assistant from Pomona filmed himself abusing disabled children at a group home. **B3**

Singer Eilish seeks protection
The pop star requests a restraining order against a man accused of breaking into her parents' L.A. home. **B3**

Lottery **B4**

SURVIVOR, WITNESS, LEADER

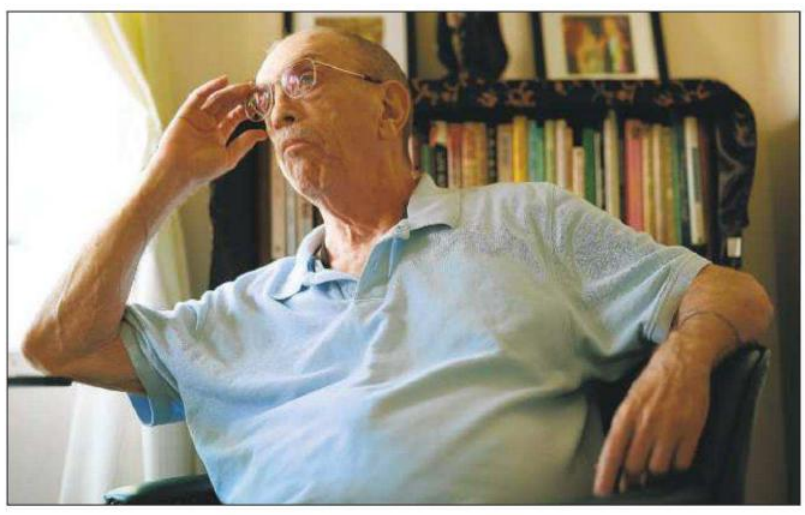
LGBTQ activist fights — and sings — on through epidemics and ignorance

BY HEIDI PÉREZ-MORENO

Minutes before KABC-TV's nightly news show "330" went on the air, the Rev. Steven Pieters wasn't in the studio chatting with the other panelists. He'd been exiled outside, to a dark alley next to the AIDS Project Los Angeles office in Hollywood.

It was 1986, and Pieters was scheduled to participate in a five-member panel to discuss the state of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, at the height of the viral infection then wreaking havoc on LGBTQ communities. He had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS four years prior and at one point was given only eight months to live.

Fearing the risk of transmission, the studio's camera and production crew refused to work if Pieters remained in [See **Pieters,** B2]



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

THE REV. STEVEN PIETERS fought the stigma surrounding people with AIDS and, most recently, those with the mpox virus.

SPORTS ON THE BACK: UCLA freshman Adem Bona's next step could be the NBA. **B10**

Activist and survivor can still carry a tune

[**Pieters,** from B1]
the studio. So while the rest of the panel touched up their makeup and indulged in concession snacks inside an air-conditioned studio, a production assistant slapped a lavalier microphone and sound buffer on Pieters' buttoned-up cassock and led him outside.

Tuning into the program to discuss the HIV/AIDS epidemic via satellite, Pieters told viewers that AIDS patients weren't monsters.

"People with AIDS were considered to be the lepers of the time," Pieters said in a recent interview at his Silver Lake home. "People just didn't want anything to do with us."

It was a time when gay, bisexual and transgender people were often demonized, and HIV/AIDS was shrouded in fear and silence. The first time the word "AIDS" slipped out of then-President Reagan's lips in public was in 1985 during a news conference — five years into the crisis.

When he received his own diagnosis, Pieters trembled at the thought of never being hugged, touched, even loved by someone else again. But through his work with the AIDS Project Los Angeles — and with a boost from a legendary live interview with televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker — Pieters became a national spokesperson and a rallying figure for AIDS awareness and gay political activism.

DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

PIETERS was honored last year with the Humanitarian Voice Award through the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles.

Since last year, Pieters and other gay men have been pushing back against the stigmas associated with a new illness, mpox, formerly known as monkeypox. The majority of reported mpox cases diagnosed worldwide have been with men who have sex with other men. Pieters has had flashbacks to the harrowing AIDS era.

"People are scared of having contact with us because, as far as people know, monkeypox can be transmitted by skin-to-skin contact, so hugging and kissing is a scary thing to do," Pieters said. "That contributes to the soiled identity of gay men — even if we don't have monkeypox."

Ian W. Holloway, who serves as director of the Southern California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center, said misinformation is one of the biggest problems in tackling such stigmas and can discourage vulnerable people from getting tested or vaccinated.

"The effect that it has is similar to the early days of HIV/AIDS because it kept people away from testing and treatment, and overall created a lot of shame and mental health challenges," Holloway said. "It's unfortunate to see those parallels play out."

Pieters alluded to those painful parallels while accepting the Humanitarian Voice Award through the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles in August. During his speech, he lamented how LGBTQ+ communities continue to be pushed aside, one epidemic after the other.

When he first joined the Chorus, it was common to see choral members practicing their arpeggios while gripping their IV poles. In those days, humor was one of the few ways for the choir to cope — as Pieters showed when he received his award. Before he signed off the stage, he sang his version of Gilbert and Sullivan's "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General," a signature tune from their comic opera "The Pirates of Penzance."

"Now many years have passed and I'm as healthy as a horse can be / It's certainly a miracle for anyone with faith to see," Pieters pitter-pattered in a heavy baritone. *"But still in journals medical, in science and oncology, / I am the very model of a medical anomaly!"*

The audience hailed the satirical take.

> 'Young gay men can learn a lot from their elders who lived through the AIDS years.'
>
> — THE REV. STEVEN PIETERS, LGBTQ activist

"He's been honored by so many different groups, but this was different because he was being honored by his friends and the people who've been there for him for years," said Alison Arngrim, who met Pieters in the mid-1980s while her husband, Robert Paul Schoonover, volunteered for AIDS Project Los Angeles, after witnessing the moment.

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The late '70s were a great time to be gay, Pieters said.

Harvey Milk had become the first openly gay man to be elected to office in California. The counterculture movement had encouraged many Americans to experiment with new ideas about sexual and gender identity.

Growing up in Lawrence, Mass., in the 1950s and '60s, Pieters was fascinated by men but couldn't explain why. When he admitted this to his father, who worked as a math teacher and varsity wrestling coach at the same prestigious prep school he attended, Phillips Academy, he was rebuffed.

"We don't talk about that," his father snapped.

Pieters learned to hide his thoughts and feelings about his sexual orientation. By the time he began college at Northwestern University, he was drinking himself to oblivion most nights, and didn't stop after graduation.

It wasn't until he was 23 that Pieters quit alcohol. Coming to terms with being gay, he felt his love for men pitted against his devout Christian faith. He couldn't figure out how they could coexist.

Then he met a group of gay pastors from Chicago's Metropolitan Community Church, a denomination founded in the late 1960s expressly to minister to LGBTQ Christians, the nation's primarily LGBTQ Christian denomination, and found his home.

"I met my lesbian sisters and gay brothers," Pieters said. "That's when I knew God loved me, when I saw all these other lesbian and gay Christians, in loving relationships, and serving other people and being open and honest."

When he became a pastor for the MCC church in Connecticut, Pieters routinely clashed with homophobic priests and ministers, either on television or in real life. He took note from the LGBTQ performers, public figures and politicians who made their names known, seeking to follow their examples.

When the first cases of what would later come to be known as HIV/AIDS were discovered among several gay men, many of those in the Christian community stigmatized it as a punishment for being gay.

"It was one of those things you have to laugh at or you cry," he said. "It was really kind of sad that even though we knew how AIDS was transmitted, there was still a lot of fear, and it was based in ignorance."

A year into the epidemic, his doctor delivered the news that made him tremble.

He was horribly sick for the first two years, including hepatitis, herpes and mononucleosis, and was eventually diagnosed with stage-four lymphoma and Kaposi sarcoma. His doctors predicted he wouldn't live past 1985.

Two weeks later, Pieters was asked to preach the sermon at North Hollywood's Metropolitan Community Church for their Easter service. He told those in the pews that, regardless of his diagnosis, he could still dance. Then he tapped out "Singin' in the Rain."

"I could still laugh. I could still feel fully alive even in the face of the illness — even in the face of death," he said. "That's what my faith taught me."

As a gay minister, Pieters thought it vital to give consolation to gay men suffering with HIV/AIDS. He made videotapes on spirituality and urged congregants to be "present" with those with AIDS by sharing meals and laughs with them. He gave weekly aid and care by phone to dozens of male AIDS patients, and became involved with AIDS Project Los Angeles.

"It was just really a walking miracle," said Rev. Keith Mozingo, who met Pieters while a guest pastor at St. John's MCC in Raleigh, N.C.

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The first time Pieters heard of the Gay Men's Chorus of L.A. he was skeptical. The musical theater snob was eventually persuaded to attend a performance by a colleague, who scolded him for wanting to spend the night alone at his Silver Lake cottage home.

Two years into his diagnosis, and beset by blistering skin lesions, Pieters spent most of his time at home rewatching old Hollywood musicals. But it was the familiar verse from Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" musical that made him sob as he watched hundreds of gay men harmonize:

"I am so proud / If I allowed / My family pride / To be my guide."

From that first performance on, Pieters was hooked.

"It was the overall effect of seeing so many gay men proudly singing so beautifully," he said.

Since the GMCLA formed in 1979, dozens of members had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. By 1988, the chorus had lost its musical director, Jerry Carlson, as well as 20 other members that same year. Eventually more than 150 members were lost to the pandemic.

"GMCLA's history as an organization and musical ensemble is inextricably tied to the history of AIDS/HIV," said GMCLA Executive Director Lou Spisto in a statement. "We became more vocal, more needed, and more present, during the peak of this crisis that affected our community and the world so directly for decades."

Memorabilia from the AIDS era to the present is scattered throughout Pieters' home. A framed photo of Peter Pan soaring across Neverland stands high above his wooden player piano. Next to it, his prized fairy wand rests upright.

For as long as he can remember, words like "pixie" and "fairy" have been used to mock gay men. Much of his work has served to reclaim and show the beauty of what it means to be homosexual. Instead of fighting the term, he rolls with it.

"I needed to own the title, and be proud of it, as a way of reclaiming images that have been used against us," Pieters said.

It's essential as the LGBTQ community faces the mpox crisis. Several studies of mpox, which is not classified as a sexually transmitted disease, have shown it to be far less lethal than AIDS. The L.A. County Public Health Department has reported that, out of more than 2,422 cases as of Dec. 27, only two resulted in death.

The public messaging around mpox also has been much more inclusive and nonalarmist than it initially was around AIDS, said Holloway, of the Southern California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center. Although there are parallels, he said, it's clear that government leaders are learning how to respond effectively in the face of this new viral threat.

"We're learning more about public health, how to be better partners, to be community leaders and how to really work together to address this latest outbreak," he said.

Pieters shares his advice and wisdom with younger Gay Men's Chorus members through one-on-one chats and rehearsal chatter. He tells them to practice safe sex, to discuss their status with their partner and to share intimacy responsibly in the midst of an epidemic.

"Young gay men can learn a lot from their elders who lived through the AIDS years," he said.

Vaccines also have been made available across the region through clinics aligned with the Department of Public Health, such as the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Many gay men in L.A. have discovered vaccination opportunities through word of mouth, Pieters said.

"Information like that is so important," he continued. "It's like an underground railroad kind of for getting protection."

Even so, many of those within the LGBTQ community have grown increasingly frustrated with the government's response to the outbreak. It's part of the reason why many California-based organizations are pushing for better access to testing, vaccines and plans to mitigate the disproportionate impacts on LGBTQ communities.

"The undersigned organizations have always and will always stand on the front lines battling for the safety and well-being of all our community. Since the first days of the AIDS epidemic, through COVID-19, and now in preparation for hMPXV, we will be ready," said a letter sent to CDC Director Rochelle Walensky in late July on behalf of Equality California, Los Angeles LGBT Center, National Center for Lesbian Rights and San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Decades after being diagnosed, Pieters is still learning and growing from the hardships he has endured. To him, it's been the communities he's built and mentored that have gotten him through those times.

They've taught him to never forget to sprinkle that pixie dust, or wave his wand — due north, toward Neverland.

A stream of water projects in the state, albeit a slow one

[**Skelton,** from B1]
mento, but they made some good points this time, while being off base on their basic premise.

Let's back up for some perspective.

The $7.5-billion bond was a scaled-down compromise of an earlier $11.1-billion borrowing scheme that was so larded with putrid pork that legislators twice pulled it from the ballot, fearful voters would gag.

Then-Gov. Jerry Brown negotiated with legislative leaders to create the leaner and more digestible Proposition 1.

"Look at these swollen rivers," Assembly Republican leader James Gallagher of Yuba City told me after he and GOP colleagues held a news conference near the rampaging American River in Sacramento last week. "All these waters should be captured."

At the news conference, Gallagher contended that "the Democratic supermajority and the governor have failed to make investments in water infrastructure."

Maybe not as much as Gallagher and the GOP would like, but the state has spent billions and intends to keep spending on water projects.

Gallagher later told me, however, "money is not the problem" for Proposition 1's main dam project, Sites, a proposed off-stream reservoir in Colusa County. It would hold 1.5 million acre-feet of water pumped from the nearby Sacramento River.

"It's been studied since Eisenhower [was president] and is stuck in permitting," the GOP leader said. "It's taking forever. Decades and decades. It's a bureaucratic morass."

Gov. Gavin Newsom apparently doesn't disagree. Last fall, he created "strike teams" to help cut through bureaucratic red tape on Proposition 1 projects.

Sites Project Director Jerry Brown — no relation to the former governor, who lives nearby on his family's ancestral ranch — seems satisfied with the project's progress.

"We're rolling along," he told me. "By the end of 2024, we should be all squared away and able to initiate construction in 2025. That will take six or seven years."

On Wednesday, Brown estimated that if Sites were now operating, it could capture 382,000 acre-feet of stormwater through mid-February.

He estimates the reservoir's total cost at $4.5 billion — a bit higher than the $3.9 billion listed on a state website. The state has committed $875 million in Proposition 1 money to the project.

The rest will be paid primarily by water users, mainly farm growers. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California plans to buy 20% of the water. The feds also are kicking in money.

Financing water storage facilities gets complicated.

Under Proposition 1, $2.7 billion is earmarked for storage — above and below ground. But the state money can be used only for "public benefits" such as salmon protection, recreation and flood control. Water users — farmers, homeowners, businesses — pay the rest with higher monthly bills.

Six other storage projects also have qualified for Proposition 1 funds.

There are two dam expansions: Los Vaqueros in Contra Costa County and Pacheco in Santa Clara County. State bond money will pay for $478 million of Los Vaqueros' nearly $800-million cost. The Pacheco project will get $504 million toward its $2.5-billion tab.

Four groundwater projects also have been approved for Proposition 1 money: in Sacramento ($292 million) and Kern ($89 million) counties, along with the Antelope Valley ($128 million) and Chino Basin ($215 million).

These decisions were left up to the state Water Commission so they wouldn't become chips in legislative political bargaining.

Proposition 1 was designed for multiagency involvement, guaranteeing bureaucratic bottlenecks. The water storage projects are all led by local agencies, not the state. Sacramento is contributing money and, with the feds, signing off — gradually — on permits.

"It's slow going — a lot of permitting," says Lisa Lien-Mager, spokesperson for the state Natural Resources Agency. "It's not like the state just writes a check."

The rest of the Proposition 1 money is for myriad projects such as wastewater management, stormwater capture, recycling and groundwater cleanup.

Of the total bond money, $6.4 billion has been committed to projects and more than $2 billion has been spent, says Nancy Vogel, the Natural Resources Agency's deputy secretary for water.

In all, 1,838 projects have been funded and 760 are completed.

So, it's false that zilch has been built. But it's true that many projects are progressing too slowly, even by government standards.

Suit says woman was hurt on ride

Disneyland workers laughed at disabled visitor before she fell, her family alleges.

By Salvador Hernandez

Disneyland employees laughed and snickered at a disabled woman trying to climb out of a ride moments before she fell back and broke her leg, a lawsuit against the park alleges.

The federal lawsuit alleges 66-year-old Joanne Aguilar had to spend days in a hospital and then weeks at a rehabilitation clinic after her injury on Aug. 22, 2021. Ultimately, the Ventura County woman contracted an infection and died from septic shock, but the lawsuit alleges it was her initial injury at the Anaheim theme park that led to her death.

The lawsuit is asking for Disneyland to pay for "all past economic damages," including medical costs, burial and funeral expenses, attorney fees, and any other incidental damages.

In court filings, Disneyland has denied the claims and asked for the suit to be dismissed.

According to the lawsuit, filed by Aguilar's two daughters, Andrea Maullul and Zenobia Hernandez, Aguilar and her family visited the park on Aug. 22, 2021. There, she and the family were given a wheelchair from the park's Disability Access Service because Aguilar had a knee injury.

When the family went on the Jungle Cruise ride, however, the suit alleges they were told the attraction's wheelchair accessible boats, which use an electronic lift and ramp to load visitors in wheelchairs, were not available.

Still, Disneyland cast members told the family they could use one of the other boats, according to the lawsuit.

Aguilar was able to board the boat with the help of her two daughters, but had trouble disembarking at the end of the ride, the lawsuit alleges.

Aguilar had to lift herself up from the boats on steps, according to the suit. Cast members had placed small blocks on top of the steps to reduce the height of each one, but the suit alleges Aguilar still struggled to lift herself up with the help of her daughters.

The family alleges in the lawsuit that employees stood around watching and at one point, "began [snickering] and giggling as they watched [Aguilar] try to safely exit the boat."

"[Aguilar] began to feel the shame and embarrassment of the situation and felt dehumanized," the suit reads.

Aguilar then lost her balance and fell backward, causing a compound fracture in her right leg.

She was hospitalized at Anaheim Global Medical Center for 10 days, and then transferred to a rehabilitation center.

The lawsuit alleges Aguilar contracted an infection during her recovery, leading to septic shock and her death on Jan. 29, 2022.

"From the time [Aguilar] left Disneyland in an ambulance on Aug. 22, 2021 she was never able to return home," the suit alleges.

In their response in court, attorneys representing Disneyland asked that the lawsuit be dismissed. They also said in court records that any injuries Aguilar suffered were caused by other people or entities, not Disneyland.

Disneyland attorneys also alleged any injuries Aguilar suffered were "caused or contributed" by her or her daughters, and that the family was aware of any additional risks they were taking in the park.

The suit was assigned on Jan. 5 to U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney in Santa Ana.

Dania Maxwell Los Angeles Times

BILLIE Eilish, pictured at the Coachella festival in April, said in a statement that a man got into her family's Highland Park home "unannounced and uninvited."

Eilish seeks restraining order to protect family

The singer's request follows an alleged break-in at her parents' L.A. home.

By Christian Martinez

Pop singer Billie Eilish has filed a request for a restraining order against the 39-year-old man accused of breaking into her parents' Los Angeles home this month, court documents show.

The order would protect herself, her parents and her brother, musician Finneas Baird O'Connell.

Eilish, 21, said in a statement included with the request that Christopher Anderson got inside her family's Highland Park home "unannounced and uninvited after apparently professing his love for me and expressing that he really wanted to meet me."

Anderson had shown up to the home multiple times before the Jan. 5 incident, though Eilish wrote in her statement that she had never communicated with him. Police were called on five separate occasions, Eilish wrote.

Patrick O'Connell, Eilish's father, wrote in his statement that Anderson approached the home several times in late December, on one occasion ringing the intercom and asking to use the bathroom.

Anderson slipped a cellphone under the gate Dec. 28, then returned the following day and left a white flower and a handwritten note that "professed his love for my daughter Billie, claimed that at some point in time Billie had been watching Mr. Anderson and writing songs about Mr. Anderson, and that Mr. Anderson really wanted to meet Billie," O'Connell wrote.

After the alleged break-in this month, Anderson was arrested on suspicion of burglary, according to the Los Angeles Police Department. He is being held in the North County Correctional Facility in Castaic.

Eilish said the incident has made her fearful of returning to her former home.

"Regrettably, this is not the first time an unknown individual has attempted to contact my family and me specifically by stalking us outside my family's home and by making professions of love to and threats of violence against me," Eilish wrote. "However, each such occasion, including the present one, causes me substantial anxiety, fear, and emotional distress over my personal safety and that of my father, mother, and brother."

In June 2020, Eilish was granted a three-year restraining order against a New York man who she said showed "erratic behavior" while returning to the home several times over the course of two days until he was arrested on suspicion of trespassing.

"I do not feel safe returning to my childhood home," she wrote in her request for the new restraining order.

Rivers get time to recede

[**Rain,** from B1]
ologist with the National Weather Service office in Monterey.

A forecast released by the office showed more modest totals, largely between 0.1 and 0.2 inches, expected across the region.

"Rain should be totally out of the picture by sunrise tomorrow morning," Behringer said Wednesday.

He characterized the latest storm as "an entirely new system ... not really of atmospheric river origin like these past events have been."

The story is much the same across the thoroughly soaked state. In the Central Valley, "we have some overnight rain tonight, but it's [only] going to be a little bit — nothing earth-shattering," said JP Kalb, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Hanford.

"We are looking at less than a tenth of an inch in most places," he said Wednesday morning.

The storm also will bring fresh snow. Forecasts call for 2 to 8 inches in the northern Shasta County mountains, 5 to 20 inches in the southern Cascade Range and 6 to 20 inches in the northern Sierra Nevada.

Precipitation will grow progressively less, to nonexistent, moving south. San Luis Obispo County could see some sprinkles, and there's a chance of light rain Thursday in the Inland Empire, but forecasts show scant chances of rain this week throughout a wider swath of the Southland.

"We have a weak system that is trying to drop southward into the southern part of the state, but it does not look like it's going to make it to Los Angeles," said David Sweet, a weather service meteorologist in Oxnard.

California as a whole seems set for a much-needed reprieve from the rain — with drier weather settling across the state for the next week or so after this last storm exits.

"We're in a much drier pattern right now. The weather pattern has shifted, and all those atmospheric river storms are no longer pointing at Southern California," Sweet said.

Whatever the future holds, a less-saturated forecast in the near term will likely be welcome news in weather-walloped parts of the state still trying to dig out from the destruction wrought by the spate of heavy storms.

Mudslides in Niles Canyon have snarled operations on the Altamont Corridor Express — a commuter rail service that runs from Stockton to San Jose.

One such slide blocked the railroad tracks Tuesday morning, prompting officials to evacuate 225 people, according to the Alameda County Fire Department.

And Santa Barbara County officials this week announced that Goleta Beach Park would be closed because of "emergency beach nourishment operations," which include moving sediment from basins below the burn areas of the Cave and Thomas fires to the beach.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Wednesday that a major disaster declaration approved by President Biden had been expanded to include Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties — making residents who sustained damage or losses from the storms eligible to seek federal assistance. Merced, Sacramento and Santa Cruz counties are also included in the declaration.

"I'm deeply thankful for the incredible support of our federal partners throughout this emergency as we've worked around the clock to save lives and help Californians whose lives have been turned upside down by these storms," Newsom said in a statement.

There have been at least 22 storm-related deaths across the state, according to a Times tally.

Small plane crash in Modesto kills 1

By Terry Castleman

A small plane crashed into a field near the Modesto airport, killing its only occupant, according to the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department.

Authorities responded to "a small airplane crash just east of the Mitchell Road bridge," said Royjindar Singh, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Department, apparently referring to the bridge over the Tuolumne River southeast of the airport.

The occupant of the plane was pronounced dead at the scene, Singh said. There were no injuries on the ground.

"We have been in contact with the [Federal Aviation Administration] and the [National Transportation Safety Board] and they have investigators on their way," Singh said.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which is responsible for inquiries into civil aviation accidents, is investigating, the agency said in a tweet.

The presence of emergency vehicles in the area delayed traffic on Mitchell Road, law enforcement officials said.

Mongols biker who killed cop may be out soon

Man held since 2014 for shooting Pomona officer in raid could be released in March.

By Terry Castleman

David Martinez, a member of the Mongols motorcycle gang, was sentenced to 10 years in prison Tuesday after pleading no contest in November to charges of voluntary manslaughter for killing a Pomona police officer during a 2014 raid.

Martinez has already been tried twice for the killing, and his lawyers were hoping he could be immediately freed, since he has spent more than eight years behind bars. Los Angeles County Deputy Dist. Atty. Jack Garden, meanwhile, pushed for 33 years to life in prison, said Det. Ray Lugo of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department.

The judge handed down a 10-year term, which means Martinez — who shot SWAT Officer Shaun Diamond with a 24-gauge shotgun, severing his spine and shattering his jaw — could be out of prison as soon as March.

One day after the Oct. 28, 2014, shooting, Diamond was taken off life support and died at Pasadena's Huntington Hospital.

Following the shooting, Martinez, 44, was tried for first-degree murder and found not guilty, but the jury deadlocked on a count of second-degree murder, and the judge declared a mistrial. In a second trial, jurors found him not guilty of second-degree murder but deadlocked on two lesser charges of voluntary manslaughter and assault with a firearm on a police officer.

Although Martinez pleaded no contest to the lesser charges in November, he maintained that he did not know it was police entering his family home in San Gabriel when he fired his shotgun.

Diamond was among several officers serving a search warrant. After knocking, they used a tool to force open the door. Martinez claimed to have shot the officer believing he was a fellow Mongol breaking in.

A lawyer for Martinez said at his most recent trial that his client had wanted to quit the gang, and therefore feared members of the Mongols had come on the night of the raid. Prosecutors countered that Martinez had kept his tattoos and continued to communicate with the gang.

Irfan Khan Los Angeles Times

DAVID MARTINEZ, shown in 2014, was given a 10-year term Tuesday.

"Part of his defense was he was afraid for his life — he thought the Mongols were coming — but he gets tons of calls from Mongols," Det. Lugo told The Times, expressing his dissatisfaction with the length of Martinez's prison term.

The 10-year sentence means that Martinez could be released in the weeks to come. By March, he will have served 85% of his sentence, the statutory minimum for violent crimes in California.

At Tuesday's sentencing, Lugo also cast doubt on the impartiality of the forepersons of juries for Martinez's murder trials. The foreperson on the first jury went with a fellow juror to visit Martinez's family home and have coffee with his mother "a couple days after the trial," he said.

The Times reviewed a recorded phone call, made after the conclusion of the first trial, in which the woman can be heard advising Martinez on his legal situation, and the two sign off by saying they love each other.

The foreperson for the second trial's jury was "planning on writing a script for a movie" about the trial, Lugo added.

The Mongols, a notorious motorcycle gang formed in Montebello in the 1970s, reportedly began with a group of Latino men who had been denied membership in the Hells Angels.

In 2018, a federal jury convicted the group of racketeering. In October 2022, a judge denied a motion for a new trial on claims that the club's president had acted as a confidential informant for law enforcement.

Caregiver gets life in prison for abusing disabled children

Four victims include three at a group home in the Inland Empire where he worked.

By Nathan Solis

A certified nursing assistant from Pomona was sentenced to life in prison for filming himself sexually abusing disabled children at a group home where he worked, federal authorities said Tuesday.

Steve Rodriguez, 38, was sentenced during a hearing Friday in Santa Ana, where U.S. District Judge John W. Holcomb described his crimes as "unspeakable acts," according to the U.S. attorney's office for the Central District of California.

In September, Rodriguez pleaded guilty to two counts of obtaining custody of a minor for the purposes of producing child pornography, five counts of production of child pornography, and one count of enticement of a minor to engage in criminal sexual activity, according to federal officials.

Rodriguez produced sexually abusive material with four young victims, three of whom were severely disabled children living at an Inland Empire group home where he worked from January 2016 through May 2020. One of his victims was 8 when Rodriguez began filming his sexual abuse, which had been ongoing for two years, prosecutors said.

Authorities began investigating Rodriguez when the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children contacted the Los Angeles Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force with information about the abuse.

"Rodriguez had a duty as medical caregiver ... to keep his victims safe and alive, but he instead violated that trust in the most despicable way," U.S. Atty. Martin Estrada said in a statement.

Eddy Wang, acting special agent in charge at Homeland Security Investigations Los Angeles, said in a statement that "Rodriguez took advantage of our most vulnerable population. The horror he inflicted upon these children was unconscionable."

Rodriguez will appear again before Holcomb in March for a restitution hearing.

Two co-defendants to whom Rodriguez sent images and videos, Cyr Dino Banguguilan, 36, of Azusa, and Miguel Bocardo, 23, of Baldwin Park, were each found guilty in November of receipt of child pornography and possession of child pornography, according to federal officials.

They will be sentenced next month and face up to 20 years in federal prison.

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(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Numero del Caso): 22CV009932

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YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Damon Taylor

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can located these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
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Hay otros requisites legales. Es recommendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remission a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisites para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
Alameda County Superior Court
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, California 94612

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
Joshua C. Ezrin, Esq.
345 Franklin Street
San Francisco, California 94102
Telephone: 415-577-2558

Date: April 15, 2022

Chad Finke — Clerk (Secretario)
X. Bowie — Deputy (Adjunto)

Published in the Los Angeles Times 1/5/2023, 1/12/2023, 1/19, 2023, 1/26, 2023

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

NOTICE OF ESCHEAT TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that for the past three years, there remained unclaimed with the Police Department of the City of Los Angeles monies held in the account known as the "UNCLAIMED MONIES SEIZED INCIDENTAL TO ARREST TRUST FUND" which were seized between February 3, 2018 and October 3, 2019. The amount of the unclaimed monies is: $959,084.00
Claims for return of these monies held must be filed with the City of Los Angeles Office of the City Clerk, Room 395 City Hall, 200, North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 BEFORE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023.
THE AFORESAID MONIES WILL BECOME PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES ON MARCH 8, 2023
DATED: DECEMBER 1, 2022 DIANA MANGIOGLU, CITY TREASURER
OFFICE OF FINANCE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
(Must be published twice per government code: Thursday, JANUARY 12, 2023 and Thursday , JANUARY 19, 2023)
1/12, 1/19/23
CNS-3653778#

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 22SMCP00611
Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Danielle Lee Morton
1374 Bella Oceana Vista, Pacific Palisades

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
James E. Jeager
aka James Edward Jaeger
Case Number 22STPB12275

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **James E. Jaeger aka James Edward Jaeger**
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **Terence Patrick Stubbs and Teresa Christofk** in the Superior Court of California, County of **Los Angeles**.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that **Terence Patrick Stubbs and Teresa Christofk** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on **2/3/2023 at 8:30a.m. Dept 79** located at
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
111 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later** of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law**.
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner: Jonathan Hollister
1000 Main Street, Suite 300, Napa, CA 94559

Published in the Los Angeles Times on: 1/5/2023, 1/12/2023, and 1/19/2023

Name Change

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Danielle Lee Morton filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Danielle Lee Morton
Proposed Name
Danielle Lee Russo-Morton
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: February 24, 2023
TIME: 8:30am
DEPT: K
ROOM:
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA, 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.

Legal Notices

Name Change

Dated: December 15, 2022
Clerk of Court
Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 01/05/23, 01/12/23, 01/19/23, 01/26/23

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso)*:
22CHLC01040
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT *(AVISO AL DEMANDADO)*: CARLOS KING, and Does 1 to 10
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF *(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE)*: WELLS FARGO BANK, N. A.
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (*www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp*), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
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Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is *(El nombre y dirección de la corte es)*: Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is *(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es)*: Claudia Gavrilescu, Esq. (CA Bar No.: 333030), REESE LAW GROUP, 3168 Lionshead Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92010; 760/842-5850 (File No. 566556)
DATE *(Fecha)*: 01/13/2022
Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/Clerk, Clerk *(Secretario)*, by L. Lopez, Deputy *(Adjunto)*
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served .
1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/23
CNS-3660683#

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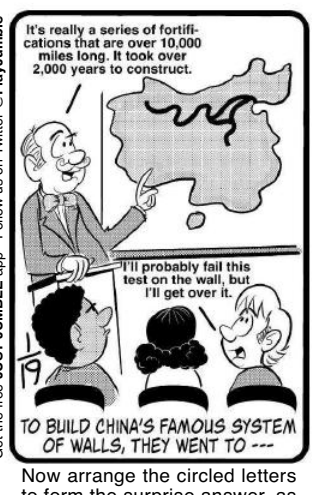
JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VYARG
GIWHE
TIVEYL
NSITLP

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble


It's really a series of fortifications that are over 10,000 miles long. It took over 2,000 years to construct.
I'll probably fail this test on the wall, but I'll get over it.
1/19
TO BUILD CHINA'S FAMOUS SYSTEM OF WALLS, THEY WENT TO ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OFTEN KAZOO SHRANK OBLONG
Answer: The cruise ship had set sail, and to view the Mediterranean, they — TOOK A "LOOK-SEA"

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Los Angeles Times

Dogs

LABRADOR RETRIEVER Silveroselabs.com AKC Champagne Pups ready now infosilveroselabs@gmail.com **559 246-0676**

Pet Adoptions

Cavalier King Charles Pups Boys/Girls Blenheim, Tri, Ruby. Shots UTD Vet Checked Ready Now call/text 310-345-7254

Cause of death in Baja questioned

[**Family,** from B1]
hotel room.

But Blair's family argues the incident occurred in an open-air walkway outside his room's front door. He was found wearing his underwear, his sleeping T-shirt and socks, according to a family statement. Blair and Williams vacationed at the Rosarito resort multiple times over the last five years and stayed in the third-floor room, the family said.

Mexican authorities also told the Register that they are in contact with the U.S. Justice Department and the FBI, which are sharing information with Blair's family.

But his family said no one from the Rosarito Beach Police Department or any other Mexican officials have directly contacted the family, the statement said.

Attempts to reach the Baja California attorney general's office on Tuesday were not successful.

Blair had been with the public defender's office since 2017, the year he passed the bar exam, and handled felony cases out of the Santa Ana office.

"Elliot was a brilliant attorney with a bright future," the family said. "Elliot's smile was radiant and warmed the hearts of every person he came in contact with. Elliot had an innate ability to connect with people from all walks of life. Elliot was a loving husband, son and brother. Elliot's tragic, untimely, and suspicious death has left his family and community with a huge hole in their hearts that will never be repaired."

Blair's and Williams' families have been in touch only with a liaison through the coroner's office who contacted them Sunday. The liaison said that based on the medical examiner's office, Blair died from severe head trauma, but a toxicology report has not yet been completed. The case was forwarded to the district attorney's office for a possible homicide investigation, according to the statement.

Blair's family said Mexican authorities have suggested that Blair's body be cremated. A funeral home liaison also made the same suggestion, but Blair's family insists that his body be preserved so it can conduct a thorough, independent investigation.

Although Blair's family has not spoken to Mexican authorities, it read a news report that quoted officials who claimed that Blair's death was an "unfortunate accident," but the officials still have not spoken to the family.

Williams has been told multiple versions of what happened to Blair. Their families argue that his body was not found underneath the balcony of the couple's room or any other balcony at the resort, and that Blair was familiar with the layout of the resort.

Blair's family did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Times staff writer Alexandra E. Petri contributed to this report.

Lottery results

For Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**
2-12-18-24-39—**Mega 18**
Jackpot: $20 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	0	—
4 + Mega	1	$17,707
4	72	$276
3 + Mega	159	$142
3	3,728	$7
2 + Mega	2,561	$9
1 + Mega	18,296	$4
Mega only	41,534	$2

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: 1 (N.Y.)

For Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**
3-7-21-34-40—**Mega 22**
Jackpot: $25 million

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**
6-15-22-42-47—**Powerball 26**
Jackpot: $439 million

Fantasy Five: 1-12-18-25-35

Daily Four: 7-7-2-1

Daily Three (midday): 1-3-4

Daily Three (evening): 7-8-7

Daily Derby:
(2) Lucky Star
(3) Hot Shot
(4) Big Ben
Race time: 1:41.70

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 22VECV00697

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
BRINKMAN PORTILLO RONK, APC, a California corporation

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
ARTESIA CENTER 2, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
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The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
Los Angeles County Superior Court
6230 Sylmar Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91401

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Andrew Haley
1299 Ocean Ave., #400
Santa Monica, CA 90401
3104518001

Date: (Fecha) 5/23/2022

Sherri R. Carter — Clerk (Secretario)
R. Duron — Deputy (Adjunto)

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Should OC Weekly be brought back from grave?

[**Arellano,** from B1] podcast host and finally editor in chief until I resigned in 2017 rather than lay off half the staff as then-owner Duncan McIntosh demanded.

When I left, OC Weekly occupied a full warehouse and office space in Fountain Valley. We told stories no one else would and held parties and festivals like no one else could. The weathered boxes were all that was left of a once-proud operation.

They now belong to Calle, who had invited me to talk about how he wanted to bring it back from the dead — and help him figure out what was what.

We played an impromptu game of Whac-a-Mole: I saw a cover of a past issue and immediately named the story behind it.

The one with an illustration of former Orange County Sheriff Mike Carona with his wife and lady friend in a movie theater? That's when we celebrated his felony conviction on corruption charges uncovered because of our reporting. The beautiful picture of chilaquiles? Our chilaquiles issue, of course. Hitler giving a Sieg Heil salute with a bass strapped across his chest? When we outed an Anaheim nightclub that was holding secret neo-Nazis rock shows.

> 'There's a void and a hunger for something different. The Weekly can quell that hunger.'
>
> — Brian Calle, new owner of OC Weekly, on why it should be revived

"Wow, you really know your stuff!" Calle said, impressed. The compliment didn't sweeten the bitter pill I now had to swallow.

When I left OC Weekly, I made my peace with what happened. When it closed, my former colleagues and I mourned and moved on.

So why did someone have to try to bring it back?

And why did it have to be *him*?

Calle made national headlines — and not in a good way — when he and a group of investors bought LA Weekly in 2017 and summarily laid off nearly everyone. OC Weekly had long trashed the former head of the Orange County Register's editorial pages as a hack who somehow always failed up, and his purchase of our former sister paper confirmed this.

He didn't turn LA Weekly into a right-wing rag like critics insisted he would. He did worse: It's now a journalistic afterthought about the size of a supermarket mailer.

My former OC Weekly colleagues, unsurprisingly, weren't happy when I told them that Calle had bought our beloved rag late last year. Reactions ranged from "No" to "Hell no" to unprintable things.

My feelings were more like Nick Schou's, who succeeded me as editor in chief and remains a close friend.

"Good on him for prying the paper's barnacled remains from [McIntosh's] greedy grip," he told me. "But will OC Weekly be better off freed from Davy Jones' locker, only to be added to Calle's portfolio of once-powerful yet now skeletonized sister papers?"

I told Calle that while I appreciated his intent, it was better to leave OC Weekly buried in the cemetery of failed publications.

Calle, unflappable save for a laugh that lands somewhere between a scream and a gasp, disagreed.

"There's a void and a hunger for something different," he said. "The Weekly can quell that hunger."

Yes, but why not start something new? Or expand his own Irvine Weekly, which Calle started in 2018 in a weak-salsa attempt to pry advertisers away from OC Weekly and in whose office we were talking?

"I have a reverence for it," he countered. "The Weekly would write the stories no one else would. The Weekly was at the forefront of what O.C. became."

In addition to LA Weekly and OC Weekly, Calle's company, Street Media, owns the legendary Village Voice — also shuttered, then revived — in New York City, 10 other community papers across the country, and just recently acquired the women's lifestyle magazine Bust. He said his mini-empire is "modestly profitable" but wouldn't disclose numbers. With OC Weekly, he sees an opportunity.

In a region with 3.1 million people, one largely ignored by L.A. media and with few local news outlets, the closing of OC Weekly left a news hole no one bothered to fill and a legacy people are just starting to appreciate. When I started there, the Register and the L.A. Times' Orange County bureau employed hundreds, with us as the foul-mouthed arriviste. The media wars were fierce, and the county was better for it.

Today, the Register is a husk of what it was, and The Times sold its O.C. offices long ago. If Calle could channel even an iota of what OC Weekly once was, I told him, that would be a good thing. But if he brought it back as a sad parody of what it once was, he'd be ridiculed — and I'd lead the jeers.

"Anyone who knows me says I'm a fixer," he said, waving me off from personnel files I stumbled across among the archives. "And journalism has become my fixer project."

Norberto Santana Jr., publisher of the Voice of OC, welcomed the possible rebirth of OC Weekly, adding, "The Weekly had a special finger on the pulse on the county. It was much-valued and much-needed."

But he also warned that Calle has a huge task ahead.

"You're not just going to replace any old thing," Santana said. "You're going to replace a band of reporters that made an indelible mark on the county. Can [Calle] meet that high mark?

"It's like boxing. You can get in — anyone can — but can you last?"

Calle tried to buy OC Weekly just before it shut down, one of many prospective buyers circling the paper in its decline. He didn't go for it then, he said, because of the "tumult" after he acquired LA Weekly, which included advertisers pulling out, social-media shaming of people who continued to work for them and even a public funeral held by former staffers outside the paper's offices.

"If I bought [OC Weekly] and made the changes it needed," Calle said, "I would've gotten unfair backlash. I don't mind it, but I didn't need my team to go through that again."

He checked in with McIntosh, a boat show magnate who bought OC Weekly in 2016, through the pandemic. They finally made a deal in November. Calle wouldn't disclose the purchase price or terms. The phone for McIntosh's company is disconnected, and McIntosh didn't respond to an email request for comment.

Todd Stauffer, manager of the Assn. of Alternative Newsmedia, said a paper like OC Weekly in a market like Orange County still has a chance, even in an era when news organizations close or lay off staff seemingly every week and the very idea of an alt-weekly is archaic.

"If your city or region needs someone to hold the powerful to account and dig deep into important issues, then your alt can thrive," said Stauffer, who co-founded the Jackson Free Press in Mississippi and is still involved in community journalism in the Magnolia State. "Have some personality. Mix it up. Get your readers involved."

Calle plans to relaunch OC Weekly slowly — just one full-time reporter, maybe a few freelancers — then pitch its comeback to advertisers and grow from there. The goal is a daily online presence, quarterly issues and live events.

"In this game, slow and steady wins the race," he said. "I don't believe in 'If you build it, it will come.' I believe in 'Show me a check, and I will build it.' "

So how are you going to get advertisers?

"I've been trying to come back to Orange County for a while. I know a lot of people, still. I knew every player in every industry."

Most of them hated OC Weekly, I replied.

He howled.

Calle intends to keep the paper's scabrous tone and is reaching out to prospective writers, vowing not to import someone from Los Angeles because "the landscape here is weird. ... We need to find the rabble-rouser, the go-to person in O.C."

Then he looked at me.

"I'd try to get *you* to come back," he said, "but I know you won't."

He's right.

Jay L. Clendenin Los Angeles Times

BRIAN CALLE, the new owner of OC Weekly, goes through boxes of old issues of the alternative paper. He also owns LA Weekly, Irvine Weekly and Village Voice.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Place a paid notice latimes.com/placeobituary
Search obituary notice archives: legacy.com/obituaries/latimes

Los Angeles Times

ADELMAN, Joel M.

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

BERCHIN, Marion

December 8, 1928 - December 31, 2022

Marion C. Berchin

Marion Berchin grew up in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles. She loved horseback riding, and frequented Dubroks stable in Griffith Park. She attended John Marshall High School, and later went to UCLA and UC Berkeley where she majored in Spanish and minored in French. World War II erupted while Marion was in junior high school. The men in her high school graduation class were noticeably absent from her graduation picture, as they were all serving overseas. She frequented the Hollywood USO, and would bring servicemen home to meet her mother and have coffee. Ironically, she later married a veteran.

When she was 20, she went on a 4-month trip to South America with her mother who was on sabbatical from her job as Supervisor of Foreign Languages for the L.A. City Schools. They met the top educators and people in the government who treated them like foreign dignitaries.

Her father was a prominent Hollywood Dentist who had many movie stars for patients. Because of her mother's knowledge of different languages, the family had an "open lifestyle," where people from all over the world would come and visit and were always welcome which Marion appreciated and which expanded her world view.

In 1948, Marion met her future husband on a blind date. It was "love at first sight." They considered eloping to Las Vegas that night, but didn't have enough money. They married 3 months later. They were married for 67 years.

After graduating from UCLA, Marion went back to school for a year to get a teaching credential, because teachers were in demand after the War. She taught the 6th grade for the L.A. City schools, and also volunteered to teach reading in housing projects for disadvantaged students. In her first year of teaching, she became a demonstration teacher.

In 1965, she and Jerry built a house overlooking the San Fernando Valley, where they lived for 55 years.

Marion and Jerry traveled extensively to different places around the world, and were one of the first Americans to visit China after Nixon opened relations there.

Marion was an avid reader. The whole family liked to sing, and were members of different choral groups, including Marion's joining a group at UC Berkeley.

Marion lived her life with grace, treated everyone as an equal and was a strong proponent of the civil rights movement. She passed these traits onto her children. Unfortunately, her youngest son, Timothy, passed away during the coronavirus pandemic. She is survived by her oldest son, Jeffrey, her brother, John, and numerous cousins. Donations can be made on Marion's behalf to NARSAD, a mental health research organization.

To place an obituary ad please go online to: latimes.com/placeobituary or call Ms. Phillips 1-800-528-4637 Ext. 77242

BIGGAR, Richard D.

Richard D. Biggar died peacefully at home surrounded by family, at the age of 83, on January 11, 2023.

Richard was born October 5, 1939, at the Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena. He grew up attending Pasadena schools and graduated from John Muir High School in 1957. He attended Stanford University, where he joined and became the President of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. Upon graduation from Stanford, Richard joined the US Navy and served for three years as a Lieutenant on a mine sweeper in Vietnam. He and Susan married in 1966 and moved to Hanover, New Hampshire, where Richard attended the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. After earning his MBA, they returned to Pasadena, where Richard began work at J.H. Biggar Furniture Company, the family business since 1926. He and his brother Jack managed the business until it was sold in 1991. Richard continued to manage the business's properties and started Allen Avenue Self Storage in 1999, which continues today.

Richard was an active leader in the Pasadena community. He joined the Pasadena Jaycees in the early 1970s and served as President. Richard was a member of Pasadena Rotary for close to 50 years, helping the organization fund local nonprofits. He served as President of the Pasadena YMCA from 1986-87. He was also active in the Tournament of Roses Association for many years.

Richard lived life to its fullest. He was a lifelong golfer and member of Annandale Golf Club for over 50 years. He was an avid runner, practiced yoga, and skied into his seventies. In his later years, he and Susan explored the world with Stanford and Dartmouth travel groups.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Susan D. Biggar; three children and their spouses- Robert and Michele Biggar of South Pasadena, Matt Biggar and Lisa Cottle of San Francisco, and Lauren and Oleg Poncefranco of La Crescenta; and seven grandchildren Lindsey, Audrey, Hayden, Katharine, Jack, Marcos, and Luciano.

In memory of Richard, please make a donation to Union Station Homeless Services (c/o Development Department, 825 E. Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91104 or online at www.unionstationhs.org/donate).

Cabot & Sons, Pasadena Directors

GAINES, Arlene Rose

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

KADONAGA, Setsuko

Private graveside services for the late Setsuko Kadonaga, predeceased by husband of 70 years Georger Torao Kadonaga in 2010, the 101 years-old, California born, resident of North Hills, who passed away on December 19, were held at Green Hills Memorial Park, officiated by Reverend Joy Magala of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

She is survived by sons, Masao and Larry (Diane) Kadonaga; daughter, Jean (Glenn) Tochioka; grandchildren, Derek (Norma) and Jarrod Kadonaga, Jill (Kenneth) Nakata, Traci and Garrett (Sophie) Tochioka; great-grandchildren, Cole Nakata, Chase Nakata, Tyler Tochioka; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and Japan.

https://www.fukuimortuary.com/
(213) 626-0441

LINSON, Bernard "Bernie"

April 18, 1922 - January 7, 2023

Loved and missed by his wife Rose Linson; sons Alan, Neal, Phil, and Rabbi Dennis Linson; and his 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

MANN, Gordon Blair

March 23, 1934 - December 20, 2022

Gordon Blair Mann passed away suddenly while out to dinner with his wife, Sheila and friends on December 20, 2022.

Gordon was born March 23, 1934 in Newcastle, Wyoming. He later moved with his family to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he spent the remainder of his school years. Gordon graduated from Stanford University, where he met his wife, Sheila. They were married in 1957 and the next few years were spent moving across the country as he served in the Navy. He was very proud of his time spent in the Navy and on the Midway. After the Navy, Gordon joined Sheila's father in the lumber business and the family moved to Orange County and has lived here ever since.

Gordon was an enthusiastic tennis player, an avid fisherman and a devoted quail hunter. His favorite times were spent fishing in Montana and quail hunting in Mexico, where he met and enjoyed lifelong friends. Gordon liked nothing better than spending time with friends. Coffee and lunch with "The Boys" was one of his favorite pastimes.

Gordon is survived by his wife of 65 years, Sheila, his daughter, Sarah and son-in-law Timothy Randall, sons, Christopher Mann and Michael Mann as well as 5 grandchildren, Thomas Randall (Katharine), Charles Randall (Tori), Lily Randall Bryan (Teddy), Catherine Mann and Jeffrey Mann and 1 great-granddaughter, Charlotte Randall.

Please keep Gordon in your prayers.

A private family Funeral Mass will be celebrated.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Gordon's name to:

Montana Wildlife Federation at montanawildlife.org or P. O. Box 1175, Helena, Montana 59624, (406)458-0027

Canine Companions for Independence at cci.org or 1-800-572-2275

CASAOC at casaoc.org or 1505 East 17th Street, suite 214, Santa Ana, California 92705

PRITIKIN, Carylin

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Simi Valley 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

RIEMER, George

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

Share a memory

To sign a guest book please go to latimes.com/guestbooks

STEAD, Sister Anne Bernadette

November 21, 1923 - December 15, 2022

Stead, Sister Anne Bernadette, C.S.J. age 99, passed away on Thursday December 15, 2022 at the Carondelet Center in Los Angeles, CA, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet since August 15, 1943. Born November 21, 1923, in San Diego, California, she came from a family with eight children. For over 53 years Sister Anne Bernadette ministered as a teacher and, at times, assistant principal. Fifteen schools benefitted from her expertise in grades 1-8, from California to Hawaii. Sister loved to cook and bake. All her hobbies benefited others, in small and great ways.

When service dates are set, they will be listed on the mortuary's website www.LAfuneral.com. Donations in memory of Sister Anne Bernadette may be sent to: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 11999 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Please visit the website to send the family messages and share memories.

Lighthouse Memorials & Receptions (310) 792-7575

Place an Obituary Online go to latimes.com/placeobituary

SUHL, Buki

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

SUTO, MIYEKO FLORENCE

SUTO, MIYEKO "FLORENCE". Age 99 passed away on January 15, 2023 after a long and vibrant life. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Henry Eiichi Suto and sister, Lily Tagawa; she is survived by her daughters, Eileen (Willy) Ma and Nadine (Robert) Suto-Ford; grandchildren, Jordan Chikara and Kassidy Mieko Ford; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Per her request, no service will be held.

www.fukuimortuary.com
213-626-0441

YUBA, Anthony Toneo

September 11, 1940 - December 22, 2022

Anthony Toneo Yuba, 82, of Altadena, CA peacefully passed away December 22 at home. Born September 11, 1940 in Los Angeles, CA to George and Mary Yuba. He is survived by his wife Yoshiko and their three children, Timothy (Reena), Karianne (Scott) Johnson, and Todd (Kimberly). He is also survived by grandchildren, Sarah, Prescott, Olivia, Evan and Quinn and sister, Kathy (Bruce) Fujikawa and brother, Greg (Cecelia).

Memorial service on Friday, Jan. 27, 11:00 a.m. at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Gate 17, at Hillside Chapel.

Wynn Develle

September 10, 1943 - January 13, 2023

Wynn Develle, born Winifred Isabel Heath, died on Friday, January 13 in Pasadena, California after a long illness. She was 79 years old.

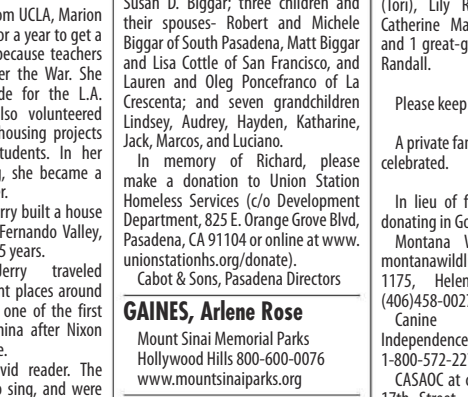
Wynn was born September 10, 1943 at the Quantico Virginia Marine base. She spent her early childhood in New Orleans before moving to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in Bay St. Louis. The Gulf Coast introduced her to sailing, a passion that remained with her throughout her life. Wynn attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. It was then that she met her beloved Bob, and they were married June 4, 1966. After Bob's Air Force assignments and several career moves, they settled in Pasadena, California.

Wynn was a force of nature. Her wit and charm lit up every room she graced with her presence. Always ready for a good laugh, she was never one to say no to a good time. Her enthusiasm for life spread though all her endeavors. She was an astute businesswoman who could sell anything and a fabulous cook who loved entertaining friends and family at home and on their boat, Beach House. She traveled often with Bob throughout the Mediterranean, Virgin Islands, and Hawaii. But Wynn's greatest joy was leisurely sailing with Bob on Beach House towards Howard's Landing on Catalina Island.

Wynn is survived by her adored husband Robert Develle, Jr. and her beautiful children Robert Develle III (Susie) and Ruthie Callanan (Bill, deceased). Wynn was a doting grandmother to her grandchildren Ryan, Scott, Emily, and Mathew Develle, and Zoe and Billy Callanan. In addition, she is survived by her siblings Ned Heath, Kathy Kensington, and John Heath.

The family would like to thank the staff at Villa Gardens Health Center for the loving care of Wynn over the past years.

Funeral services to be held on Saturday, January 21 at 1 p.m. at St. Bede Catholic Church, La Canada, California, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to Brother's Helpers, c/o St. Bede Catholic Church, 215 Foothill Blvd, La Canada, California 91011.



Anita H. Levinson

February 2, 1934 - January 16, 2023

Anita Levinson, née Suddleson, died peacefully at home. She is survived by her husband, Burton, her children Ellyn Levinson and Doug Levinson, and her grandchildren Rachel Karas, Kelsey Levinson, and Trevor Levinson. She is also survived by her brother, M. Kenneth Suddleson. She is predeceased by her daughter Sherry Levinson, and her brother Matt Suddleson.

Anita took great pride in Ellyn's accomplishments. As an attorney, Ellyn dedicated her legal career to public service and to political and philanthropic commitments.

As a proud grandmother, Anita was thrilled to see both her oldest granddaughter, Rachel, accomplish her lofty academic goals, and to see her younger granddaughter, Kelsey, well on her way to becoming a doctor. She also enjoyed watching her grandson Trevor grow into manhood.

Anita was born in Akron, Ohio, the daughter of Edwin and Beatrice Suddleson.

Anita was a full-time partner to her husband, and not only was she a motivator in much of what he accomplished but, in fact, an inspiration.

Volunteerism was "in Anita's blood." She dedicated over 1,000 hours to the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center as a volunteer. She was actively involved in the Soviet Jewry movement in Los Angeles and testified before a Congressional Committee on behalf of that movement. She also participated in several philanthropic organizations.

Anita was very proud of her Jewish heritage and considered herself to be a patriot; she was honored to be an American.

The funeral service will be private.

Bart Roe

April 2, 1932 - January 14, 2023

Born in New York City on April 2, 1932 to Michael and Edith, passed away peacefully at the stroke of 6 pm, on January 14, 2023 at the age of 90. Bart was a fun, funny, and fun-loving man, an irrepressible kidder who never met a straight line he couldn't answer with a quip.

His long career in the entertainment industry began as a child actor on radio and in the Broadway hit A Young Man's Fancy. After the rude interruption of the Korean War, in which he fought with the Second United States Infantry Division, he worked as both an assistant and unit director on such Golden Age of Television classics as The Ernie Kovaks Show and Young Dr. Kildare. He spent many years working as a second assistant director on General Hospital, before moving on to big screen films and working with scores of talented actors, including Jane Fonda and Robert Redford. In later years, he left the film industry for a career in real estate.

Bart was an amazing and intuitive photographer. He savored travel and loved skiing, watching movies at the Director's Guild, listening to Frank Sinatra and Barbara Cook, and making and devouring his own ice cream. He is survived by his loving sister Lois, nephew Brian, and nieces Alison and Wendy, to whom he always gave his time and affection over the years. We will miss him and keep him forever in our hearts and in our lives.

Services will be held on Friday, January 20th at 1:30 pm at Hollywood Forever Cemetery at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd.
Hollywood, CA 90038 (323) 469-1181.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Mostly dry: A front and upper-level disturbance dropping southward will have only enough moisture to bring a stray shower to parts of the region today. Rain and snow showers will be more numerous in the mountains, especially on north-facing slopes, where snow levels will range from 4,000 feet to 5,000 feet. A low-end Santa Ana wind event could develop Friday night through Saturday.

5-day forecasts

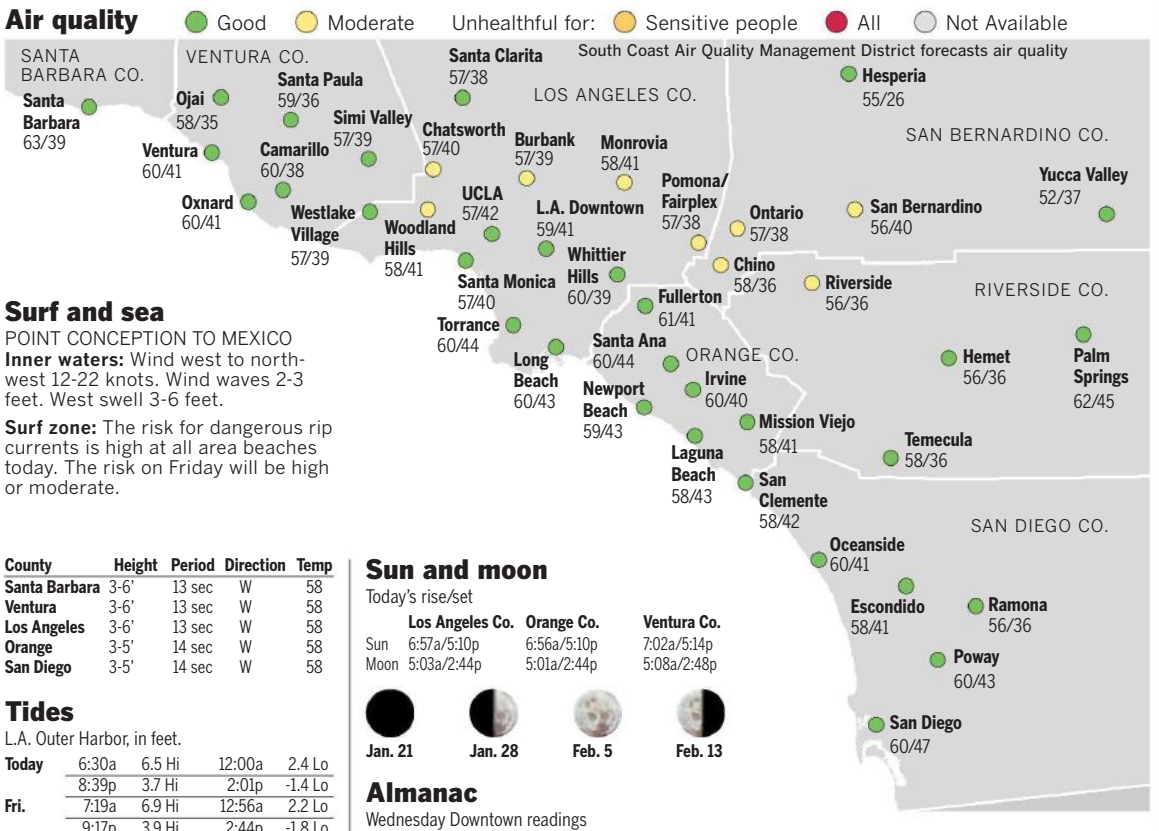
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	59|41		56|41		57|40		38|16		62|45	
	Variable cloudiness		Mostly cloudy; cool		Variable cloudiness		P.M. snow showers		Partly sunny	
Friday	Mostly sunny	61/42	Mostly sunny	60/40	Mostly sunny	60/40	Very cold	31/11	Sunny	65/45
Saturday	Sunny	62/45	Sunny	62/42	Sunny	61/40	Not as cold	38/18	Sunny	68/46
Sunday	Mostly sunny	62/45	Mostly sunny	62/45	Mostly sunny	62/43	Sunny	46/17	Sunny	72/49
Monday	Sunny	65/46	Breezy	66/45	Sunny	62/45	Mostly sunny	39/15	Partly sunny	73/45

Air quality

Good · Moderate · Unhealthful for: Sensitive people · All · Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind west to northwest 12-22 knots. Wind waves 2-3 feet. West swell 3-6 feet.

Surf zone: The risk for dangerous rip currents is high at all area beaches today. The risk on Friday will be high or moderate.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	3-6'	13 sec	W	58
Ventura	3-6'	13 sec	W	58
Los Angeles	3-6'	13 sec	W	58
Orange	3-5'	14 sec	W	58
San Diego	3-5'	14 sec	W	58

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	6:30a	6.5 Hi	12:00a	2.4 Lo
	8:39p	3.7 Hi	2:01p	-1.4 Lo
Fri.	7:19a	6.9 Hi	12:56a	2.2 Lo
	9:17p	3.9 Hi	2:44p	-1.8 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 60 · Phoenix, 45
Los Angeles, 60 · San Francisco, 45

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:57a/5:10p	6:56a/5:10p	7:02a/5:14p
Moon	5:03a/2:44p	5:01a/2:44p	5:08a/2:48p

Jan. 21 · Jan. 28 · Feb. 5 · Feb. 13

Almanac

Wednesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	62/43	63/42	64/46
Normal high/low	68/49	69/47	66/44
High/low a year ago	65/54	65/55	62/55
Record high/date	95/1971	84/2014	88/1976
Record low/date	37/1892	35/2007	32/2007

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	13.01	10.78	13.33
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.36	5.47	9.54
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	5.89	4.78	6.56
Humidity (high/low)	73/45	82/42	76/49

California cities

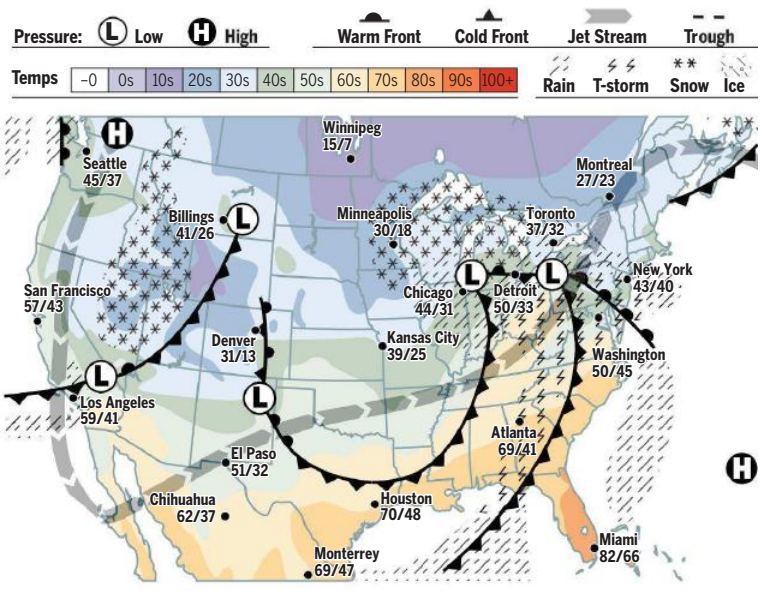
City	Wed. Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Friday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	65	44	--	60	40	63	41
Avalon/Catalina	xx	xx	xx	51	45	54	49
Bakersfield	57	38	--	52	41	54	33
Barstow	54	33	--	58	33	54	31
Big Bear Lake	xx	xx	xx	38	16	31	11
Bishop	45	20	--	43	21	44	21
Burbank	60	37	--	57	39	62	40
Camarillo	60	37	--	60	38	63	42
Chatsworth	61	36	--	57	40	60	40
Chino	60	36	--	58	36	62	37
Compton	61	42	--	60	42	62	40
Dana Point	59	42	--	58	44	61	41
Death Valley	66	48	--	59	45	62	42
Del Mar	63	43	--	59	46	60	42
Escondido	61	38	--	58	41	61	32
Eureka	50	37	.79	54	32	55	37
Fallbrook	59	40	.01	58	39	62	36
Fresno	55	37	--	54	37	54	33
Fullerton	63	42	--	61	41	64	39
Hemet	56	33	--	56	36	59	30
Hesperia	xx	xx	xx	55	26	49	28
Huntington Beach	63	40	--	60	43	61	43
Idyllwild	xx	xx	xx	41	30	45	28
Irvine	59	43	--	60	40	62	42

City	Wed. Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Friday Hi	Lo
L.A. D'ntown/USC	62	43	--	59	41	61	42
L.A. Int'l. Airport	60	45	--	59	44	61	43
Laguna Beach	61	41	--	58	43	58	43
Lancaster	52	30	--	52	25	52	22
Long Beach	62	45	--	60	43	61	40
Mammoth Lakes	21	-11	--	27	7	26	10
Mission Viejo	62	40	.06	58	41	61	43
Monrovia	59	41	.01	58	41	61	41
Monterey	55	39	--	55	38	56	37
Mt. Wilson	42	28	--	35	29	38	33
Needles	59	42	--	58	41	57	40
Newport Beach	59	45	.01	59	43	61	44
Northridge	62	34	--	58	41	61	44
Oakland	56	40	--	56	38	57	35
Oceanside	59	40	--	60	41	64	33
Ojai	62	31	--	58	35	59	37
Ontario	58	37	--	57	38	61	37
Palm Springs	64	41	--	62	45	65	45
Pasadena	61	41	--	57	40	59	42
Paso Robles	56	33	--	56	30	55	27
Redding	45	32	Tr	56	41	59	36
Riverside	56	33	--	56	36	57	31
Sacramento	54	34	--	54	34	55	30
San Bernardino	57	35	--	56	40	59	39

City	Wed. Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Friday Hi	Lo
San Diego	61	44	--	60	47	63	44
San Francisco	55	43	--	57	43	56	41
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	58	39	62	39
San Jose	58	38	--	57	36	56	34
San Luis Obispo	59	37	--	59	37	60	36
Santa Ana	61	45	--	60	44	63	43
Santa Barbara	61	38	--	63	39	60	36
Santa Clarita	59	33	--	57	38	59	39
Santa Monica Pier	59	43	--	57	40	60	40
Santa Paula	60	36	--	59	36	63	37
Santa Rosa	53	33	Tr	58	33	62	31
Simi Valley	62	38	--	57	39	62	40
Tahoe Valley	36	0	--	30	9	33	11
Temecula	58	35	--	58	36	60	32
Thousand Oaks	59	42	--	58	38	63	39
Torrance	63	39	--	60	44	60	43
UCLA	xx	xx	xx	57	42	61	43
Van Nuys	62	38	--	58	43	62	42
Ventura	64	46	--	60	41	61	46
Whittier Hills	63	42	--	60	39	62	38
Woodland Hills	63	32	--	58	41	62	42
Wrightwood	xx	xx	xx	42	27	41	30
Yorba Linda	62	41	--	59	38	62	42
Yosemite Valley	39	24	--	32	18	37	25

Today in North America

Snow spreads across the Great Lakes: A storm will spread snow across the Upper Midwest. Rain, and even severe thunderstorms, will stretch from Ohio and the mid-Atlantic region to the Florida panhandle. Snow will cause slippery travel from Idaho into Nevada and western Utah.



U.S. cities

WEDNESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 88 in Edinburg, Texas · **Low** –18 in Boulder, Wyo.

City	Wed. Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	44	31	.02	34	31	I
Albuquerque	44	31	--	40	25	Su
Anchorage	19	8	Tr	29	26	Sn
Aspen	23	15	.07	27	10	Cy
Atlanta	64	57	.05	69	41	Ts
Austin	77	60	Tr	69	44	Pc
Baltimore	57	40	--	47	43	R
Boise	43	25	--	36	21	Sn
Boston	52	40	.03	41	36	R
Buffalo	38	37	.13	42	35	I
Burlington, Vt.	38	33	.01	31	28	Sn
Charleston, S.C.	74	56	Tr	74	51	Pc
Charlotte	61	50	--	67	42	Cy
Chicago	41	36	.01	44	31	Sn
Cincinnati	45	35	.05	60	32	Ts
Cleveland	42	38	Tr	56	34	R
Columbia, S.C.	68	53	--	73	46	Cy
Columbus	41	38	Tr	62	34	Ts
Dallas/Ft.Worth	72	61	Tr	60	39	Su
Denver	27	23	.87	31	13	Cy
Detroit	43	39	.01	50	33	R
El Paso	51	35	--	51	32	Pc
Eugene	47	46	.31	47	27	Pc
Fort Myers	82	57	--	81	66	Pc
Hartford	52	35	--	39	33	R
Honolulu	84	68	--	79	64	Pc
Houston	79	69	Tr	70	48	Pc
Indianapolis	41	34	.48	54	29	W
Jacksonville, Fla.	79	55	--	80	53	Pc
Kansas City	41	37	.44	39	25	Sf
Knoxville	57	47	Tr	68	36	Ts
Las Vegas	52	38	--	49	36	Pc
Louisville	50	40	.02	64	35	W
Medford	40	32	.28	48	27	Fg
Memphis	73	52	.47	55	36	Su
Miami	80	58	--	82	66	Su
Milwaukee	40	36	.02	41	30	Sn
Minneapolis	33	28	--	30	18	Sn
Nashville	68	43	--	67	37	Pc
New Orleans	77	66	--	72	51	Ts
New York	53	42	.05	43	40	R
Norfolk	61	47	--	68	51	Sh
Oklahoma City	62	50	.20	51	31	Su
Omaha	35	27	.45	29	10	Sf
Orlando	77	48	--	82	65	Pc
Philadelphia	55	42	Tr	46	42	R
Phoenix	60	45	--	60	43	Su
Pittsburgh	39	38	.01	56	35	Ts
Portland, Ore.	47	44	.32	46	32	Pc
Providence	53	38	--	43	36	R
Raleigh/Durham	69	50	--	71	47	Cy
Reno	34	17	--	36	15	Sf
Richmond	64	44	--	64	46	R
St. Louis	43	38	.61	44	29	Pc
Salt Lake City	37	28	.02	36	26	Sn

City	Wed. Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	46	43	.18	45	37	Cy
Tampa	76	58	--	77	65	Pc
Tucson	57	39	--	60	37	Su
Tulsa	65	48	.85	50	28	Su
Washington, D.C.	60	39	--	50	45	R
Wichita	58	41	.60	45	24	Pc

World

City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	83	68	--	83	67	Su
Amsterdam	42	28	.75	42	31	Sn
Athens	66	61	--	66	56	W
Bangkok	88	73	--	88	70	Pc
Barcelona	54	43	--	55	42	Pc
Berlin	36	27	.26	37	27	Pc
Cabo San Lucas	73	54	--	74	51	Cy
Cairo	71	52	--	72	53	Su
Dubai	73	71	--	74	60	Pc
Dublin	39	32	--	39	29	Cy
Havana	84	54	--	85	59	Su
Ho Chi Minh City	90	73	Tr	90	75	Pc
Hong Kong	64	53	--	66	57	Su
Istanbul	63	54	Tr	64	49	Pc
Jerusalem	61	42	--	61	42	Su
Johannesburg	82	60	--	83	63	Ts
Kuala Lumpur	90	74	.12	90	74	Ts
Lima	77	68	--	76	68	Cy
London	41	28	--	41	31	Pc
Madrid	45	37	--	47	43	Pc
Mecca	89	61	--	87	66	Su
Mexico City	79	40	--	79	45	Hz
Montreal	34	27	.11	27	23	Cy
Moscow	34	32	.05	40	36	Sn
Mumbai	86	68	--	86	67	Hz
New Delhi	64	39	--	64	49	Hz
Paris	41	30	.04	40	30	Sn
Prague	36	28	.20	33	25	Cy
Rome	57	52	.28	53	36	R
Seoul	36	21	Tr	42	25	Pc
Singapore	89	77	.06	87	76	Ts
Taipei City	57	54	Tr	64	58	Cy
Tokyo	52	40	.01	51	42	Pc
Vancouver	46	43	.29	44	37	Cy
Vienna	46	34	.16	38	28	Cy

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Wednesday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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NG HAN GUAN Associated Press

KATIE VOLYNETS returns a shot during her upset of No. 9-seeded Veronika Kudermetova to reach the third round of a Grand Slam event for the first time.

Brooksby eliminates No. 2 Ruud

He continues a strong showing by American men in early going at the Australian Open.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Jenson Brooksby eliminated No. 2 seed Casper Ruud 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-2 in the second round of the Australian Open on Thursday in Rod Laver Arena, meaning a pair of 20-something Californians have knocked out the top two players in the men's bracket.

The 22-year-old Brooksby's surprise came in the same round and on the same court that 27-year-old Mackenzie McDonald defeated No. 1 seed Rafael Nadal on Wednesday at the year's first Grand Slam tournament.

Brooksby is ranked 39th and making his Australian Open debut. "Hopefully this is the first of many many good years here to come," he said.

His performance continued the run of strong play by men from the United States during Week 1. By reaching the third round, Brooksby joins countrymen Ben Shelton, Tommy Paul and J.J. Wolf, who also won Thursday, along with McDonald, No. 16 Frances Tiafoe and No. 29 Sebastian Korda, who all won Wednesday.

"A lot of Americans doing really well right now, and we're all pushing each other," said Brooksby, who will face Paul.

There was also a big win for an American woman Thursday: 21-year-old qualifier Katie Volynets defeated No. 9-seeded Veronika Kudermetova of Russia 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

"I literally have the chills, because the fans here are just incredible," Volynets said.

Coco Gauff was twice a point away from being pushed to a third set by Emma Raducanu but steadied herself and went on to a 6-3, 7-6 (4) victory late Wednesday in the first head-to-head meeting between the young stars.

TENNIS RESULTS

$54-MILLION AUSTRALIAN OPEN
At Melbourne
Surface: Hard-outdoor

MEN'S SINGLES (second round)—Felix Auger-Aliassime (6), Canada, d. Alex Molcan, Slovakia, 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; Frances Tiafoe (16), d. Juncheng Shang, China, 6-4, 6-4, 6-1; Mackenzie McDonald d. Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5; Karen Khachanov (18), Russia, d. Jason Kubler, Australia, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, d. Lloyd Harris, South Africa, 6-2, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4; Yoshihito Nishioka (31), Japan, d. Dalibor Svrcina, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; Daniil Medvedev (7), Russia, d. John Millman, Australia, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2; Stefanos Tsitsipas (3), Greece, d. Rinky Hijikata, Australia, 6-3, 6-0, 6-2; Francisco Cerundolo (28), Argentina, d. Corentin Moutet, France, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5; Denis Shapovalov (20), Canada, d. Taro Daniel, Japan, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 7-5; Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, d. Botic Van de Zandschulp (32), Netherlands, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; Sebastian Korda (29), d. Yosuke Watanuki, Japan, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4; Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, d. Christopher Eubanks, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Hubert Hurkacz (10), Poland, d. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-3, 6-3; Cameron Norrie (11), Britain, d. Constant Lestienne, France, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3; Daniel Evans (25), Britain, d. Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-4, 6-4, 6-1; Tommy Paul d. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (30), Spain, 6-2, 2-6, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-4; Jeffrey John Wolf d. Diego Schwartzman (23), Argentina, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4; Ben Shelton d. Nicolas Jarry, Chile, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3), 7-5; Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, d. Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-3.

WOMEN'S SINGLES (second round)—Madison Keys (10), d. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-3, 6-2; Zhu Lin, China, d. Jil Teichmann (32), Switzerland, 6-2, 6-2; Barbora Krejcikova (20), Czech Republic, d. Clara Burel, France, 6-4, 6-1; Kateryna Baindl, Ukraine, d. Caty McNally, 6-1, 7-6 (4); Jelena Ostapenko (17), Latvia, d. Anna Bondar, Hungary, 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-0; Cristina Bucsa, Spain, d. Bianca Andreescu, Canada, 2-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4; Coco Gauff (7), d. Emma Raducanu, Britain, 6-3, 7-6 (4); Elena Rybakina (22), Kazakhstan, d. Kaja Juvan, Slovenia, 6-2, 6-1; Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, d. Olivia Gadecki, Australia, 6-2, 6-1; Bernarda Pera d. Zheng Qinwen (29), China, 6-4, 6-4; Victoria Azarenka (24), Belarus, d. Nadia Podoroska, Argentina, 6-1, 6-0; Danielle Collins (13), d. Karolina Muchova, Czech Republic, 6-7 (1), 6-2, 7-6 (6); Aryna Sabalenka (5), Belarus, d. Shelby Rogers, 6-3, 6-1; Ekaterina Alexandrova (19), Russia, d. Taylor Townsend, 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; Katie Volynets d. Veronika Kudermetova (9), Russia, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; Elise Mertens (26), Belgium, d. Lauren Davis, 6-4, 6-3; Magda Linette, Poland, d. Anett Kontaveit (16), Estonia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

MEN'S DOUBLES (first round)—Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands-Neal Skupski (1), Britain, d. John-Patrick Smith, Australia-Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 6-1, 6-2; Julian Cash-Henry Patten, Britain, d. Guido Pella-Pedro Cachin, Argentina, 6-4, 6-3; Nikola Mektic-Mate Pavic (4), Croatia, d. Maximo Gonzalez-Andres Molteni, Argentina, 6-2, 7-5; Gonzalo Escobar, Ecuador-Tomislav Brkic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, d. Ivan Sabanov-Matej Sabanov, Serbia, 1-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4; Marcel Granollers, Spain-Horacio Zeballos (8), Argentina, d. Luis David Martinez, Venezuela-Sebastian Baez, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2; Andrey Golubev-Aleksandr Nedovyesov, Kazakhstan, d. Li Tu and Dane Sweeny, Australia, 6-0, 6-2; Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France-Santiago Gonzalez (15), Mexico, d. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia-Aslan Karatsev, Russia, 6-4, 6-4; Ariel Behar, Uruguay-Nicolas Barrientos, Colombia, d. Nicolas Mahut, France-Tim Puetz, Germany, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Yoshihito Nishioka-Ben McLachlan, Japan, d. Albert Ramos-Vinolas-Bernabe Zapata Miralles, Spain, 6-4, 6-1; Robin Haase-Matwe Middelkoop (16), Netherlands, d. Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain-Hugo Dellien, Bolivia, 7-5, 7-5; John Peers, Australia-Andreas Mies (14), Germany, d. Yuki Bhambri-Saketh Myneni, India, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-3; Rajeev Ram, and Joe Salisbury (2), Britain, d. Marcos Giron, and Constant Lestienne, France, 6-2, 6-3.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (first round)—Kristina Mladenovic, France-Timea Babos, Hungary, d. Aliona Bolsova, Spain-Panna Udvardy, Hungary, 6-2, 6-2; Alison van Uytvanck, Belgium-Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, d. Eri Hozumi, Japan-Tamara Zidansek, Slovenia, 7-6 (4), 6-3; Zhaoxuan Yang, China-Hao-Ching Chan (11), Taiwan, d. Sam Stosur, Australia-Alize Cornet, France, 6-3, 6-4; Monica Niculescu, Romania-Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, d. Tamara Korpatsch, Germany,-Jaqueline Adina Cristian, Romania, 6-4, 6-4; Aldila Sutjiadi, Indonesia-Miyu Kato (16), Japan, d. Danka Kovinic, Montenegro, and Kaitlyn Christian, 7-6 (2), 6-2; Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic-Camila Osorio, Colombia, d. Angela Kulikov and Sophie Chang, 6-4, 6-2; Oksana Kalashnikova, Georgia, and Alycia Parks, d.. Jasmine Paolini and Martina Trevisan, Italy, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2; Demi Schuurs, Netherlands-Desirae Krawczyk (6), d. Arina Rodionova-Petra Hule, Australia, 6-1, 6-4; Greet Minnen, Belgium-Anna Bondar, Hungary, d. Alicja Rosolska, Poland-nd Erin Routliffe (14), New Zealand, 6-4, 6-1; Barbora Krejcikova-Katerina Siniakova (1), Czech Republic, d. Ulrikke Eikeri, Norway-Catherine Harrison, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus-Tereza Mihalikova, Slovakia, d. Han Xinyun, China-Lidziya Marozava, Belarus, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; Priscilla Hon-Olivia Gadecki, Australia, d. Tatjana Maria, Germany-Ana Bogdan, Romania, 6-4, 6-2; Caroline Dolehide, and Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, d. Zhu Lin, China-Anna Blinkova, Russia, 6-3, 6-3.

USC chooses to create Felix legacy over cash

[**Elliott,** from B10]

donor or something of that nature, so that's why I never would have imagined this," Felix said. "I was like, 'Are you sure?'

"It sounded pretty crazy to me. It's not something I ever could have dreamt of. I was completely humbled."

Folt said USC didn't consider pursuing a sponsor. "I think it's really important when you think about the very special places we have on campus, that we chose to name it after a person because of who she is," Folt said. "She exemplifies character and grace, integrity. And I see her as a real inspiration to the community. So there really wasn't a question."

To athletic director Mike Bohn, it was more important to feature Felix's name than a sponsor's. "That wasn't an option," he said. "It's always been about Allyson and how do we honor her and ensure her legacy."

Her ties to the university are deep. As a child, she'd walk with her grandmother and her brother, Wes, through the nearby Rose Garden, to the 32nd Street Market, and across campus. She turned pro after her stellar career at L.A. Baptist High but her mother, Marlean, insisted she go to college, so she fit classes and exams around the Olympics and other major events and earned a degree in elementary education.

Her father, Paul, a minister, attended USC. So did her brother, who won Pac-10 titles in the 100- and 200-meter sprints. She sometimes watched Wes run on the field that will carry her name. "That's what makes this super special," she said.

She competed fiercely but cleanly while earning 11 Olympic medals and 20 world championship medals in the 200, 400 and relays. She voluntarily took extra drug tests to prove her ethics in a sport that has lost credibility and popularity because of the cheaters who seem to be a step or two ahead of the drug testers.

CHARLIE RIEDEL Associated Press

ALLYSON FELIX and daughter Camryn celebrate Felix's bronze at the world championships in July.

Shy by nature, Felix stepped into the spotlight after she became pregnant and her shoe sponsor, Nike, said she'd have to take a 70% pay cut because she'd be competing less. She fought back, advocating for better treatment for athletes during and after pregnancy, and she left Nike for Athleta, a woman-focused company. She and Wes started their own shoe company, Saysh, whose spikes she wore while winning two medals at the Tokyo Olympics, her fifth and final Games.

When she endured complications while giving birth to her daughter, Camryn, now a healthy 4-year-old, Felix testified in Congress to publicize the racial disparities in maternal health and mortality. It's a cause that's still close to her heart.

Speaking last May at USC's commencement, where she was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, Felix told the graduates they can make the world a better place, though they might not yet know how.

"There are times when you'll ask for change. And there are times when you'll have to create it," said Felix, who retired after helping the U.S. win a bronze medal in the mixed-gender 4x400 relay at last year's world championships. "Each one of us can create change, and you do not have to be an Olympian, or even have your life all figured out to be able to start. We all can start exactly where we are."

Felix, 37, stays busy with speaking engagements, working with the International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission, taking Camryn to tennis and soccer lessons, and building her company. Camryn likes to run and has great genes on both sides: Felix's husband, Kenneth Ferguson, was an elite runner and hurdler. "I've been trying to push her in other directions," Felix said, laughing.

In years to come, memories of Felix's athletic feats will fade. Seeing her name on the field will tell those who pass it that she was much more than someone who ran fast. "I'd really love for them to think about her as a person. She aims high," Folt said. "I'd hope they'd think about staying true to your values and using that strength of purpose and determination to lead."

For Felix, it all comes back to a familiar theme. "I hope they think about a person who is a fighter, who has stood up for things that I believed in," she said. "Also, a fierce competitor. But I hope what resonates most is just a person who pushes for change in every aspect."

NBA

Short-handed Clippers get routed

Markkanen scores 34 against L.A., which was minus Leonard, George and Wall.

UTAH 126
CLIPPERS 103

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — Lauri Markkanen had 34 points and 12 rebounds to help the Utah Jazz beat the short-handed Clippers 126-103 on Wednesday night.

Markkanen returned after missing two games because of a bruised hip. He made six three-pointers and had his 11th game with at least 30 points this season.

"I wanted to be aggressive and get going early. Just get in the rhythm of the game," said Markkanen, whose national team coaches from Finland attended the game.

Markkanen made his mark close to the basket and around the perimeter, including a ferocious dunk over Ivica Zubac followed by a three-pointer to give Utah a 78-62 lead in the third quarter.

"I'm noticing it's pretty fun to dunk," Markkanen joked. "It's just a mindset going to the rim, no matter really who's in front of you, either I'm going to get a dunk or get two free throws."

The Jazz led wire-to-wire and by as many as 25 points over the weary Clippers, on the second game of a back-to-back set, without Kawhi Leonard and Paul George. The Jazz (24-24) have won four of their last five games.

Mike Conley had 17 points and nine assists, Jordan Clarkson scored 16 points and Walker Kessler had 13 points and 11 rebounds.

RICK BOWMER Associated Press

THE CLIPPERS' Ivica Zubac, left, guards Utah's Lauri Markkanen, who made six three-pointers.

"Early in the game, the ball was finding the open man. And that's the way team ball should be played. It happened to be me a few of those times," said Conley, who was one point off his season high.

Norman Powell led the Clippers with 30 points, and Zubac added 15 points and 12 rebounds. The Clippers (23-24) have dropped nine of their last 11 games.

"Offense ran through me tonight, so I just wanted to make the reads and the situations — whether it was to be aggressive for my shots or create for my teammates," Powell said.

Leonard (right knee) and George (right hamstring) played Tuesday in the Clippers' 120-110 loss to Philadelphia, but both sat out the Utah game to recover.

John Wall is out with an abdominal strain and the Clippers hoped to have Luke Kennard back (right calf) but will need to wait longer.

The Jazz made 19 of 32 threes and shot 52% overall and outscored the Clippers 50-34 in the paint.

"They were able to get what they wanted to in the pick-and-roll tonight and get into the paint and cause havoc," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "We weren't clean with our switches defensively and that hurt us."

JAZZ 126, CLIPPERS 103

CLIPPERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Batum	23	4-5	0-0	2-5	1	2	11
Morris Sr.	23	3-14	3-3	0-2	3	1	10
Zubac	26	7-13	1-1	7-12	1	2	15
Mann	25	1-5	0-0	0-3	5	2	2
Powell	29	9-15	5-8	0-4	3	3	30
Coffey	24	3-7	1-1	1-3	3	3	8
Boston Jr.	22	3-9	1-2	1-4	3	4	7
Diabate	21	1-4	1-4	3-6	0	3	3
Jackson	19	4-12	0-0	0-2	2	0	11
Covington	18	1-5	2-2	2-5	2	0	4
Preston	4	1-3	0-0	0-4	0	0	2
Totals	**37-92**	**14-21**	**16-50**	**23**	**20**	**103**	

Shooting: Field goals, 40.2%; free throws, 66.7%

Three-point goals: 15-34 (Powell 7-9, Batum 3-4, Jackson 3-7, Coffey 1-3, Morris Sr. 1-4, Mann 0-1, Preston 0-1, Boston Jr. 0-2, Covington 0-3). Team Rebounds: 11. Blocked Shots: 6 (Diabate 3, Zubac 2, Covington). Turnovers: 13. Technical Fouls: coach Tyronn Lue, 11:38 third.

UTAH

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Beasley	27	5-12	0-0	1-4	0	1	13
Markkanen	33	11-20	6-6	2-12	1	3	34
Kessler	28	6-9	1-2	4-11	3	1	13
Clarkson	31	5-11	4-5	0-2	4	1	16
Conley	28	6-8	0-0	0-4	9	2	17
Sexton	21	3-9	5-7	0-1	1	3	11
Agbaji	20	2-2	0-0	1-3	1	4	4
Vanderbilt	16	4-9	0-0	1-3	3	2	9
Gay	12	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Alexander-Walker	7	1-1	1-2	0-1	2	0	4
Azubuike	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bolmaro	2	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Fontecchio	2	1-3	0-0	0-1	0	0	3
Horton-Tucker	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Totals	**45-87**	**17-22**	**9-44**	**26**	**19**	**126**	

Shooting: Field goals, 51.7%; free throws, 77.3%

Three-point goals: 19-32 (Markkanen 6-8, Conley 5-6, Beasley 3-6, Clarkson 2-5, Alexander-Walker 1-1, Fontecchio 1-2, Vanderbilt 1-2, Gay 0-1, Sexton 0-1). Team Rebounds: 4. Blocked Shots: 7 (Kessler 2, Markkanen 2, Agbaji, Conley, Sexton). Turnovers: 8. Steals: 4 (Alexander-Walker, Kessler, Markkanen, Sexton).

CLIPPERS	26	30	25	22—103
Utah	36	32	27	31—126

A—18,206. T—2:11.

James' 32 points are not enough in loss to Kings

ASHLEY LANDIS Associated Press

HARRISON BARNES of the Kings, driving on LeBron James, had the go-ahead three-point play just moments after James had one of his own to tie the score.

[**Lakers,** from B10]

derson fouled Fox with just seconds left on the shot clock. Fox split two at the free-throw line and opened the door slightly, with Kendrick Nunn hitting a three to pull the Lakers within one with seconds left.

But the Lakers failed to properly foul, rookie Max Christie giving up a clear-path foul that gave the Kings two free throws, the ball and ultimately the win.

It was a perfectly Lakers game — plenty of fight and a disappointing result, the kind of night that's defined their last week, in which they've lost three times by a combined 10 points.

Watching them against the surprising Kings was a pretty good reflection of where the Lakers are and the challenges they face.

There was good, there was bad, but maybe most importantly there was hope — especially in regards to Anthony Davis' recovery.

Sacramento, playing without its surefire All-Star big man, Domantas Sabonis, cut through the Lakers' defense to get most of what it wanted, Fox sliding past Dennis Schroder, Beverley and the rest of the Lakers' backcourt for easy bucket after easy bucket. And if Fox wasn't scoring, the Lakers' defense was getting caught up enough in rotations that the ball eventually found an open shooter.

The Lakers' offense, which cooked the Kings for 39 points in the first quarter, steadily slowed and predictably became too dependent on James, who finished with 32 points.

But the good? That wasn't hard to find.

The Lakers, when playing with pace, controlled the game. James, more than halfway into his 20th season and coming off a season-high 48 points in a win over Houston, played with plenty of juice. And role players like Nunn, Christie and Wenyen Gabriel continued to make the most of their opportunities.

But as the team moves into trade season, a lot of the decisions that need to be made will depend largely on evidence the Lakers don't have — their full roster unavailable for the last month as the team seemingly began to find an identity.

Davis, whose purple sweatsuit nearly matched the Lakers' warmups, missed his 17th consecutive game as he recovers from a set of foot injuries including a bone spur and a stress reaction. Guard Lonnie Walker IV has missed 10 straight with tailbone and knee injuries, and guard Austin Reaves sat for the seventh game in a row.

Coach Darvin Ham said all three are progressing on schedule, giving the most detail about Davis' recovery.

"He's coming along as planned. He's getting more and more on-court work. Doing 30-, 45-minute, almost an hour workouts," Ham said. "Just us having him go through that workout, they are intense and just to see how the foot reacts to those workouts. And lately they've been, he's been pretty much pain-free. So once that continues a little bit more time we'll see where he's at."

STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meeting the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Denver	32	13	.711		9-1	N1
2. Memphis	31	13	.705	½	10-0	S1
3. Sacramento	25	18	.581	6	7-3	P1
4. New Orleans	26	19	.578	6	3-7	S2
5. Dallas	24	22	.522	8½	4-6	S3
6. Golden State	22	22	.500	9½	6-4	P2
6. Utah	24	24	.500	9½	5-5	N2
8. CLIPPERS	23	24	.489	10	2-8	P3
8. Oklahoma City	22	23	.489	10	7-3	N3
10. Minnesota	22	24	.478	10½	6-4	N4
11. Portland	21	23	.477	10½	3-7	N5
12. Phoenix	21	24	.467	11	1-9	P4
13. LAKERS	20	25	.444	12	6-4	P5
14. San Antonio	14	31	.311	18	2-8	S4
15. Houston	10	35	.222	22	0-10	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Boston	33	12	.733		8-2	A1
2. Milwaukee	29	16	.644	4	6-4	C1
3. Philadelphia	28	16	.636	4½	8-2	A2
4. Brooklyn	27	16	.628	5	6-4	A3
5. Cleveland	28	18	.609	5½	6-4	C2
6. Miami	25	21	.543	8½	7-3	S1
6. New York	25	21	.543	8½	7-3	A4
9. Indiana	23	23	.500	10½	4-6	C3
8. Atlanta	23	22	.511	10	6-4	S2
10. Chicago	20	24	.455	12½	5-5	C4
11. Toronto	20	25	.444	13	5-5	A5
12. Washington	19	26	.422	14	5-5	S3
13. Orlando	16	28	.364	16½	3-7	S4
14. Charlotte	12	34	.261	21½	2-8	S5
15. Detroit	12	35	.255	22	3-7	C5

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Sacramento 116, LAKERS 111	Utah 126, CLIPPERS 103
Washington 116, New York 105	Atlanta 130, Dallas 122
Memphis 115, Cleveland 114	Charlotte 122, Houston 117
Miami 124, New Orleans 98	Denver 122, Minnesota 118
Oklahoma City 126, Indiana 106	

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
Chicago	5½	vs. Detroit	Noon
at Boston	5	Golden State	4:30 p.m.
Toronto	2½	at Minnesota	5 p.m.
Philadelphia	2½	at Portland	5 p.m.
at Phoenix	OFF	Brooklyn	7 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Tuesday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, Dallas	40	454	330	1351	33.8
Embiid, Philadelphia	33	370	333	1110	33.6
Tatum, Boston	43	438	319	1337	31.1
Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee	35	382	296	1085	31.0
Gilgeous-Alexander, Okla. City	40	405	377	1226	30.7
Durant, Brooklyn	39	410	267	1158	29.7
James, LAKERS	34	393	157	1010	29.7
Lillard, Portland	32	287	237	938	29.3
Mitchell, Cleveland	40	390	206	1135	28.4

KINGS 116, LAKERS 111

SACRAMENTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barnes	40	6-17	6-7	0-6	2	1	20
Murray	36	3-6	2-2	3-10	0	3	10
Holmes	30	7-7	2-2	3-11	1	1	16
Fox	39	13-23	3-7	0-3	6	0	31
Huerter	32	7-13	1-2	1-3	8	0	18
Lyles	20	3-5	4-4	3-6	0	3	10
Metu	17	2-3	2-2	3-5	1	2	6
Monk	10	1-9	0-0	1-3	2	2	2
Mitchell	10	1-3	1-1	0-0	3	2	3
Okpala	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	**43-87**	**21-27**	**14-47**	**23**	**14**	**116**	

Shooting: Field goals, 49.4%; free throws, 77.8%

Three-point goals: 9-30 (Huerter 3-8, Murray 2-4, Barnes 2-5, Fox 2-7, Lyles 0-1, Mitchell 0-1, Okpala 0-1, Monk 0-3). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Metu 2, Huerter, Mitchell, Monk). Turnovers: 11 (Barnes 2, Fox 2, Holmes 2, Monk 2, Huerter, Lyles, Mitchell). Steals: 3 (Huerter 2, Fox). Technical Fouls: Kings, 3:47 second.

LAKERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown Jr.	22	2-4	0-0	1-4	3	1	4
James	36	11-25	8-9	0-8	9	0	32
Bryant	18	4-7	0-0	1-4	2	1	8
Beverley	26	1-4	0-0	0-1	2	1	3
Schroder	26	2-6	1-1	0-0	2	4	5
Westbrook	31	8-17	1-4	0-7	5	1	19
Christie	27	3-8	4-4	0-3	1	3	12
Gabriel	23	5-8	0-0	3-6	1	3	10
Nunn	16	5-8	0-0	0-1	0	4	14
Tscno-Andrsn	11	2-2	0-0	1-2	1	2	4
Totals	**43-89**	**14-18**	**6-36**	**26**	**20**	**111**	

Shooting: Field goals, 48.3%; free throws, 77.8%

Three-point goals: 11-34 (Nunn 4-6, Westbrook 2-5, Christie 2-6, James 2-9, Beverley 1-4, Gabriel 0-1, Schroder 0-1, Brown Jr. 0-2). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 3 (Gabriel, James, Nunn). Turnovers: 6 (Schroder 2, Westbrook 2, Gabriel, James). Steals: 9 (Brown Jr. 2, Christie 2, Beverley, Gabriel, James, Schroder, Westbrook). Technical Fouls: Westbrook, 9:19 second.

Sacramento	28	33	29	26—116
LAKERS	39	21	22	29—111

A—18,142. T—2:14.

Nuggets 122, Timberwolves 118

MINNESOTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anderson	34	6-10	0-2	2-11	8	3	13
McDaniels	33	7-10	2-2	1-3	2	3	18
Reid	25	4-9	9-10	1-3	2	5	17
Edwards	37	7-17	2-3	4-9	3	0	16
Russell	31	4-8	2-2	0-0	7	1	13
Prince	31	5-9	2-2	1-4	1	2	14
Garza	17	4-9	5-6	3-4	0	3	16
Nowell	14	4-6	0-0	0-0	2	5	9
Moore Jr.	9	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Knight	4	1-2	0-1	0-1	0	4	2
Totals	**42-81**	**22-28**	**12-36**	**26**	**27**	**118**	

Shooting: Field goals, 51.9%; free throws, 78.6%

Three-point goals: 12-32 (Garza 3-5, Russell 3-6, McDaniels 2-3, Prince 2-4, Anderson 1-1, Nowell 1-3, Knight 0-1, Edwards 0-4, Reid 0-5). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 10 (McDaniels 3, Reid 3, Anderson, Edwards, Moore Jr., Prince). Turnovers: 17 (Russell 4, Edwards 3, McDaniels 3, Reid 3, Anderson 2, Knight, Prince). Steals: 6 (Anderson 4, Edwards, Prince). Technical Fouls: None.

DENVER

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gordon	29	5-9	1-2	2-3	1	4	12
Porter Jr.	22	1-6	2-2	0-6	0	1	4
Jokic	31	12-20	7-7	4-11	13	5	31
Caldwell-Pope	34	4-6	1-2	0-1	2	1	11
Murray	33	10-18	6-6	0-2	4	0	28
Brown	32	7-11	1-5	1-5	4	4	16
Hyland	18	2-5	4-4	0-1	2	0	9
Nnaji	16	3-4	0-2	0-0	0	2	7
Cancar	15	1-4	2-2	0-2	1	2	4
Braun	6	0-2	0-0	1-3	0	0	0
Totals	**45-85**	**24-32**	**8-34**	**27**	**19**	**122**	

Shooting: Field goals, 52.9%; free throws, 75.0%

Three-point goals: 8-21 (Caldwell-Pope 2-2, Murray 2-5, Brown 1-1, Nnaji 1-1, Hyland 1-3, Gordon 1-4, Braun 0-1, Cancar 0-1, Porter Jr. 0-3). Team Rebounds: 16. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 2 (Gordon, Porter Jr.). Turnovers: 14 (Jokic 3, Gordon 2, Porter Jr. 2, Braun, Brown, Caldwell-Pope, Cancar, Hyland, Murray, Nnaji). Steals: 10 (Caldwell-Pope 3, Braun 2, Murray 2, Cancar, Jokic, Porter Jr.). Technical Fouls: None.

Minnesota	27	33	35	23—118
Denver	30	25	33	34—122

A—16,112. T—2:32.

Wizards 116, Knicks 105

WASHINGTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Kuzma	36	11-24	1-3	3-13	7	3	27
Porzingis	32	6-17	6-6	5-11	5	6	22
Gafford	17	3-4	0-0	1-2	0	2	6
Beal	28	7-11	3-3	1-4	4	0	18
Morris	30	5-10	0-0	2-7	5	3	13
Avdija	29	6-11	0-1	3-7	1	3	14
Wright	21	3-8	4-4	2-5	4	1	11
Hachimura	19	0-7	0-0	0-1	1	3	0
Kispert	14	1-2	2-2	0-1	1	0	5
Gibson	8	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	2	0
Totals	**42-95**	**16-19**	**18-52**	**28**	**23**	**116**	

Shooting: Field goals, 44.2%; free throws, 84.2%

Three-point goals: 16-42 (Porzingis 4-9, Kuzma 4-12, Morris 3-6, Avdija 2-3, Beal 1-1, Kispert 1-2, Wright 1-3, Hachimura 0-6). Team Rebounds: 15. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 9 (Porzingis 2, Wright 2, Avdija, Beal, Gafford, Kuzma, Morris). Turnovers: 13 (Kuzma 4, Porzingis 3, Beal 2, Gafford 2, Hachimura, Wright). Steals: 5 (Wright 2, Avdija, Gafford, Kuzma). Technical Fouls: None.

NEW YORK

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barrett	37	9-21	3-4	1-7	2	3	21
Randle	34	6-17	2-5	7-15	4	5	14
Robinson	9	0-0	0-4	2-2	0	0	0
Brunson	37	11-24	8-8	1-3	4	1	32
Grimes	31	5-10	1-2	1-2	1	0	14
Quickley	31	6-13	4-4	1-5	0	4	18
Sims	20	1-2	0-0	2-4	2	6	2
Toppin	13	0-1	0-0	1-5	0	0	0
Hartenstein	12	2-6	0-0	3-4	0	1	4
McBride	10	0-2	0-0	1-2	1	0	0
Totals	**40-96**	**18-27**	**20-49**	**14**	**20**	**105**	

Shooting: Field goals, 41.7%; free throws, 66.7%

Three-point goals: 7-26 (Grimes 3-7, Brunson 2-3, Quickley 2-6, McBride 0-1, Barrett 0-4, Randle 0-5). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Robinson 2, Sims 2). Turnovers: 9 (Barrett 4, Randle 2, Brunson, Grimes, Quickley). Steals: 9 (Brunson 2, Robinson 2, Barrett, Grimes, McBride, Quickley, Randle). Technical Fouls: Knicks, 11:26 third.

Washington	35	21	32	28—116
New York	22	26	30	27—105

A—19,164. T—2:13.

Heat 124, Pelicans 98

MIAMI

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Butler	26	8-13	2-3	1-3	7	1	18
Martin	35	3-7	2-2	0-3	0	1	10
Adebayo	30	11-15	4-6	3-8	1	2	26
Herro	24	6-13	2-2	0-4	7	0	14
Lowry	22	3-5	0-1	2-8	4	1	7
Strus	26	6-13	0-0	1-2	10	2	16
Vincent	25	6-14	0-0	0-5	3	2	16
Oladipo	25	3-6	0-0	0-5	4	3	7
O.Robinson	17	4-7	2-2	2-4	1	5	10
Highsmith	5	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	0	0
Totals	**50-94**	**12-16**	**10-43**	**37**	**17**	**124**	

Shooting: Field goals, 53.2%; free throws, 75.0%

Three-point goals: 12-35 (Vincent 4-8, Strus 4-10, Martin 2-4, Oladipo 1-2, Lowry 1-3, Butler 0-1, Herro 0-7). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 2 (Adebayo, Oladipo). Turnovers: 9 (Adebayo 2, Butler 2, Martin 2, Herro, Lowry, Strus). Steals: 11 (Martin 3, Adebayo 2, Herro 2, O.Robinson 2, Highsmith, Lowry). Technical Fouls: None.

NEW ORLEANS

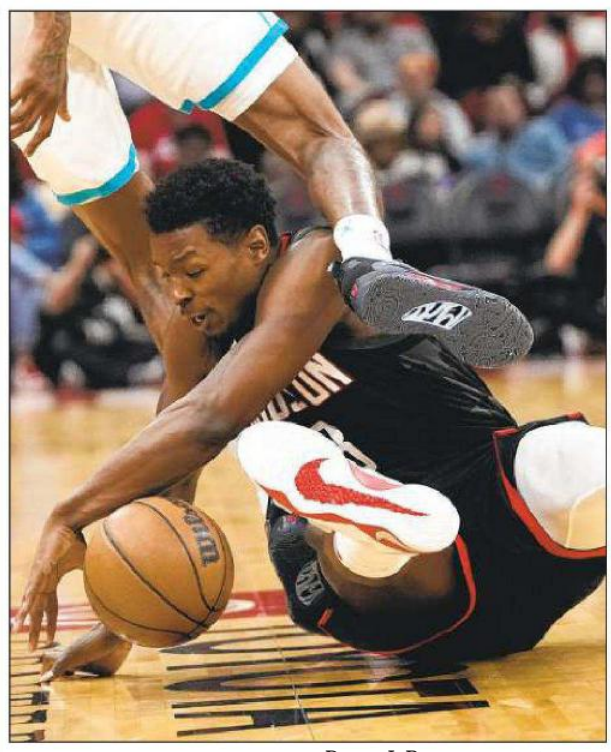
	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Marshall	31	4-13	3-3	0-5	4	1	12
Murphy III	28	2-9	0-0	0-3	3	0	5
Valanciunas	25	8-11	2-3	4-10	0	3	18
Daniels	33	4-8	1-1	1-6	3	2	9
McCollum	31	8-17	0-0	0-2	4	5	21
Alvarado	24	4-9	0-0	0-1	1	1	11
Graham	19	2-3	0-2	0-3	3	3	6
Nance Jr.	17	1-2	0-2	1-2	6	0	2
Hernangomez ...	11	2-3	3-5	2-3	2	1	7
Hayes	5	1-3	2-2	1-2	0	0	4
Lewis Jr.	5	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	3
Temple	5	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Totals	**37-80**	**11-18**	**9-38**	**27**	**17**	**98**	

Shooting: Field goals, 46.3%; free throws, 61.1%

Three-point goals: 13-30 (McCollum 5-9, Alvarado 3-5, Graham 2-2, Lewis Jr. 1-1, Marshall 1-5, Murphy III 1-6, Daniels 0-1, Hayes 0-1). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Alvarado 2, McCollum). Turnovers: 18 (Daniels 5, Valanciunas 4, McCollum 3, Alvarado, Graham, Hernangomez, Lewis Jr., Marshall, Murphy III). Steals: 5 (Murphy III 2, Daniels, Hernangomez, McCollum). Technical Fouls: None.

Miami	36	34	28	26—124
New Orleans	23	28	25	22— 98

A—17,736. T—2:05.



DAVID J. PHILLIP Associated Press

BETWEEN THE LEGS

Houston's Jae'Sean Tate reaches for a loose ball as Charlotte's Jalen McDaniels steps over him in the second half of the Hornets' 122-117 win.

Hornets 122, Rockets 117

CHARLOTTE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
McDaniels	34	6-11	0-0	0-4	3	1	12
Washington	37	7-11	0-5	2-8	2	2	16
Plumlee	29	6-8	5-6	3-9	1	3	17
Ball	20	4-16	3-3	1-1	4	1	13
Rozier	38	11-24	1-1	0-2	6	3	26
D.Smith Jr.	28	2-8	5-6	1-2	7	3	9
McGowens	21	3-4	2-3	2-4	3	3	10
Williams	18	8-10	1-1	1-6	0	3	17
Thor	10	1-4	0-0	1-1	1	1	2
Totals	**48-96**	**17-25**	**11-37**	**27**	**20**	**122**	

Shooting: Field goals, 50.0%; free throws, 68.0%

Three-point goals: 9-36 (Rozier 3-12, McGowens 2-3, Washington 2-5, Ball 2-8, Thor 0-1, D.Smith Jr. 0-2, McDaniels 0-5). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 10 (Williams 5, Washington 3, McDaniels, Rozier). Turnovers: 9 (Ball 3, McDaniels 2, Rozier 2, D.Smith Jr., McGowens). Steals: 14 (McDaniels 5, Plumlee 3, Washington 3, Rozier 2, D.Smith Jr.). Technical Fouls: Rozier, 12:00 third

HOUSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Martin Jr.	32	4-8	0-1	2-7	3	4	11
J.Smith Jr.	22	3-7	2-2	0-5	1	0	8
Sengun	39	10-16	4-4	5-12	6	4	24
Gordon	30	4-10	2-3	0-2	2	3	11
Green	39	16-24	5-6	0-5	7	2	41
Tate	23	1-4	2-2	0-4	1	5	4
Eason	18	3-11	0-0	3-5	1	1	7
Mathews	13	1-4	0-0	0-1	0	1	3
Christopher	10	4-6	0-0	0-1	0	0	8
Garuba	8	0-1	0-2	2-5	0	2	0
Totals	**46-91**	**15-20**	**12-47**	**21**	**22**	**117**	

Shooting: Field goals, 50.5%; free throws, 75.0%

Three-point goals: 10-32 (Green 4-10, Martin Jr. 3-4, Eason 1-3, Mathews 1-4, Gordon 1-5, Christopher 0-1, Sengun 0-1, Tate 0-1, J.Smith Jr. 0-3). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 5 (Christopher, Gordon, J.Smith Jr., Sengun, Tate). Turnovers: 19 (Gordon 4, Green 4, Sengun 3, Christopher 2, Eason 2, J.Smith Jr. 2, Garuba, Tate). Steals: 4 (Sengun 2, Garuba, Gordon). Technical Fouls: None.

Charlotte	36	17	30	39—122
Houston	31	29	24	33—117

A—15,678. T—2:10.

Grizzlies 115, Cavaliers 114

CLEVELAND

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
E.Mobley	38	9-15	0-2	4-15	3	2	18
Okoro	33	6-6	1-2	0-3	1	2	17
Allen	36	6-9	2-5	5-8	0	4	14
Garland	38	7-17	5-6	0-5	14	3	24
LeVert	41	9-19	1-1	0-4	6	0	23
Stevens	16	2-2	0-0	1-4	0	4	5
Rubio	12	2-7	2-2	1-4	3	0	7
Love	9	1-6	3-3	0-1	0	0	6
Neto	6	0-0	0-0	0-2	1	1	0
Osman	6	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Totals	**42-82**	**14-21**	**11-47**	**29**	**17**	**114**	

Shooting: Field goals, 51.2%; free throws, 66.7%

Three-point goals: 16-35 (Garland 5-11, Okoro 4-4, LeVert 4-7, Stevens 1-1, Love 1-5, Rubio 1-5, E.Mobley 0-1, Osman 0-1). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: 3. Blocked Shots: 7 (Allen 2, E.Mobley 2, Okoro 2, LeVert). Turnovers: 16 (E.Mobley 6, LeVert 4, Allen 2, Garland 2, Okoro, Stevens). Steals: 4 (Garland 2, E.Mobley, LeVert). Technical Fouls: None.

MEMPHIS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brooks	30	4-12	0-0	1-3	0	1	8
Jackson Jr.	28	5-13	3-4	2-7	1	5	15
Adams	28	6-8	1-2	5-10	4	3	13
Bane	32	8-17	4-4	2-4	4	2	25
Morant	32	9-19	6-9	0-2	8	1	24
Clarke	19	3-7	1-1	4-7	1	3	7
Aldama	19	6-8	0-0	0-2	0	1	16
Jones	18	1-6	0-0	1-3	2	1	2
Williams	16	1-3	1-2	0-0	1	1	3
Konchar	13	1-4	0-0	0-4	1	1	2
Totals	**44-97**	**16-22**	**15-42**	**22**	**19**	**115**	

Shooting: Field goals, 45.4%; free throws, 72.7%

Three-point goals: 11-34 (Bane 5-8, Aldama 4-6, Jackson Jr. 2-6, Williams 0-1, Konchar 0-2, Jones 0-3, Morant 0-3, Brooks 0-5). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Jackson Jr. 4, Aldama, Brooks, Clarke). Turnovers: 8 (Bane 2, Brooks 2, Adams, Aldama,

THE DAY IN SPORTS

USC, UCLA announce 2023 football schedules

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

USC and UCLA announced their football schedules for the 2023 season, the farewell campaign before both schools move to the Big Ten Conference.

USC will open with three consecutive home games against San Jose State, Nevada and its Pac-12 opener against Stanford before an open date on Sept. 16. The Trojans also have an open date on Nov. 25

UCLA's nonconference schedule will feature home games against Coastal Carolina and North Carolina Central, sandwiched around a road game at San Diego State. UCLA's open date is Sept. 30.

In the conference schedules, UCLA will avoid Oregon and Washington, and USC won't have to play Oregon State and Washington State.

Maryland quarterback **Taulia Tagovailoa** said he is returning to play next season.

ETC.

Rams continue turnover of staff

In the aftermath of a 5-12 season, Rams coach **Sean McVay** is turning over much of his staff.

Special teams coordinator **Joe DeCamillis**, offensive line coach **Kevin Carberry**, defensive backs coach **Jonathan Cooley**, outside linebackers coach **Thad Bogardus**, assistant defensive line coach **Skyler Jones** and defensive assistant **Lance Schulters** will not return next season, people with knowledge of the situation said.

— Gary Klein

Jim Schwartz was hired as the Cleveland Browns' defensive coordinator. ... The Tennessee Titans hired San Francisco director of player personnel **Ran Carthon** as general manager. ... The Denver Broncos have two more interviews lined up for their vacant coach position: defensive coordinators **DeMeco Ryans** of the 49ers and **Dan Quinn** of the Dallas Cowboys.

2023 college football schedules

UCLA	USC
Sept. 2 vs. Coastal Carolina	Aug. 26 vs.San Jose State
Sept. 9 at San Diego State	Sept. 2 vs. Nevada
Sept. 16 vs. N.C. Central	Sept. 9 vs. Stanford
Sept. 23 at Utah	Sept. 23 at Arizona State
Oct. 7 vs. Washington State	Sept. 30 at Colorado
Oct. 14 at Oregon State	Oct. 6 or 7 vs. Arizona
Oct. 21 at Stanford	Oct. 14 at Notre Dame
Oct. 28 vs. Colorado	Oct. 21 vs. Utah
Nov. 4 at Arizona	Oct. 28 at California
Nov. 11 vs. Arizona State	Nov. 4 vs. Washington
Nov. 18 at USC	Nov. 11 at Oregon
Nov. 25 vs. California	Nov. 18 vs. UCLA

The Dodgers were hit with a $32.4-million luxury tax for the second straight season, among six teams paying a penalty as baseball payrolls rebounded after the lockout to a record $4.56 billion. ... The Boston Red Sox agreed to terms with outfielder **Adam Duvall** on a contract that will pay him at least $7 million for next season, a baseball official told the Associated Press. ... Right-hander **Chris Paddack** and the Minnesota Twins finalized a $12.525-million, three-year contract, an agreement that supersedes a $2.4-million, one-year contract he agreed to Friday. ... The Milwaukee Brewers agreed to a $3.5-million, one-year contract with former Miami Marlins third baseman/right fielder **Brian Anderson**.

Charlotte Hornets point guard **LaMelo Ball** left Wednesday's win over the Houston Rockets after spraining his left ankle for the third time this season. ... Phoenix Suns forward **Cam Johnson**, out since Nov. 4 because of a knee injury, is expected to return Thursday against the Brooklyn Nets.

Josef Martinez, the 2018 most valuable player and centerpiece of Atlanta United's rise in MLS, was released and signed with Inter Miami.

Fourteen months after hiring a law firm to provide a safety assessment of its sports programs following a lawsuit that alleged a culture of hazing in the renowned football program, Santa Ana Mater Dei High confirmed the assessment was completed. However, the school gave no indication results would be shared publicly despite a commitment by the former school president, **Father Walter E. Jenkins,** to release the findings.

— Eric Sondheimer

Chris Ford, a member of the Boston Celtics' 1981 championship team, a longtime NBA coach and the player credited with scoring the league's first three-point basket, died at 74. Ford coached the Clippers for two seasons (1998-2000).

FARMER'S PLAYOFF PICKS

Times NFL writer Sam Farmer examines this week's playoff matchups in the NFL divisional round. Lines according to FanDuel. Last week's record: 4-2. Using point spreads with the scores Farmer predicted, the record against the spread last week would have been 1-5. All times Pacific:

No. 4 Jacksonville at No. 1 Kansas City

When: Saturday, 1:30 p.m., Channel 4. **Line:** Chiefs by 8½.

How Jaguars can win: Limit the turnovers. Four interceptions in the first half won't be survivable again. Get that play-action game going and take some shots down the field. Defensively, get to Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes. Josh Allen, the Jacksonville pass rusher, needs to have a big day. Sacks aren't essential, but get Mahomes off his spots.

How Chiefs can win: Lean on Mahomes. Don't get in a hurry to hit the big play; the Chiefs have been patient and methodical all season. This offense reliably can get to or near 30 points. Defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo loves to blitz; see whether he can confuse quarterback Trevor Lawrence and force him into turnovers. The Chiefs need to lean into who they've been all season.

Pick: The Chiefs should win, but the game could be closer than a lot of people are predicting. The Jaguars are balanced offensively and they believe in themselves, especially after that historic comeback against the Chargers.
CHIEFS 30, JAGUARS 24

No. 6 N.Y. Giants at No. 1 Philadelphia

When: Saturday, 5:15 p.m., Channel 11. **Line:** Eagles by 7½.

How Giants can win: Believe in what they're doing. They've got a bunch of guys nobody has heard of in this receiving corps. Give the ball to running back Saquon Barkley and let quarterback Daniel Jones do whatever it takes to win the game, whether it's using his arm or his legs. Turn loose those young pass rushers. Limit Philadelphia's running game and put the pressure on quarterback Jalen Hurts.

How Eagles can win: Establish the run and don't put all the pressure on Hurts. Hit the big plays when they're there. The Eagles take deep shots every week. Protect Hurts so he can sit back and pick defenses apart. Let deeper routes develop. DeVonta Smith is uncoverable man to man and fellow receiver A.J. Brown is still the guy. Defensively, do whatever it takes to stop the run.

Pick: The Eagles are fresh after a week off. This is the 25th time that a team that has swept a season series has met that division opponent in the playoffs. In those cases, the 2-0 teams won 15 of the 24 third matchups. Division game, so it figures to be closer than many expect.
EAGLES 24, GIANTS 21

No. 3 Cincinnati at No. 2 Buffalo

When: Sunday, noon, Channel 2. **Line:** Bills by 4½.

How Bengals can win: Run it enough. Don't rely on quarterback Joe Burrow dropping back as much as he's done all season. The Bengals should be able to run on the Bills. Try to mitigate those offensive-line injuries. The Bills aren't as good without injured linebacker Von Miller but they can still get after the passer. Defensively, stop the run and put the pressure on quarterback Josh Allen to be the hero.

How Bills can win: Stop the run and turn up the heat on Burrow. The more the Bills get to him, the more likely they are to force turnovers. The Bills can exploit Cincinnati's injuries along the offensive line. The Bengals are especially vulnerable at the tackles. Offensively, limit the turnovers. Quit messing around in the red zone. Remember, it's OK to kick a field goal now and again.

Pick: The Bengals have big limitations along the offensive line and at the corners. The Bills should take advantage of that. The Bills got a scare last week and that should sharpen their focus. They have the momentum and the crowd behind them. **BILLS 28, BENGALS 24**

No. 5 Dallas at No. 2 San Francisco

When: Sunday, 3:30 p.m., Channel 11. **Line:** 49ers by 3½.

How Cowboys can win: Set up Dak Prescott's passing game by effectively running the ball. Run some screens, get running back Tony Pollard in space. If Prescott plays the way he did against Tampa Bay and isn't the interception machine he's been this season, Dallas has a chance. Defensively, try to slow the run and make 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy look like a rookie for once.

How 49ers can win: Keep doing what they're doing. The 49ers can run, draw up creative ways to get the ball in running back Christian McCaffrey's hands, and have to be astounded at how good Purdy has been. Keep up that defensive confidence. This team has won 11 straight and should continue to act like it.

Pick: The 49ers have an advantage across the board. Defensively, they have too much speed. Purdy has yet to crack — how was he the last pick in the draft? — and adding McCaffrey to an offense that already has receivers Deebo Samuel and Brandon Aiyuk and tight end George Kittle just doesn't seem fair. **49ERS 27, COWBOYS 21**

Staley says Chargers need more balance

[**Chargers,** from B10]
we've been able to make since I've been here."

The Chargers finished 10-7 — a one-game improvement over Staley's first season — and secured the AFC's top wild-card spot. The franchise hadn't been to the playoffs since the 2018 season.

But Staley was second-guessed nationally for playing most of his starters deep into the second half of an otherwise meaningless regular-season finale at Denver.

Worse, wide receiver Mike Williams suffered a fracture in his back in the second quarter against the Broncos and was unavailable for the team's playoff game at Jacksonville.

In that contest Saturday night, the Chargers built a 27-0 second-quarter lead only to lose to the Jaguars 31-30 on the final play.

"I was really proud of this season, especially with all the challenges that were happening throughout," Staley said, referring to the team's many injuries. "I felt that the way we finished the season said a lot about the guys in our locker room."

Sitting at 6-6 in early December, the Chargers won four in a row to grab a postseason berth. All the momentum of that surge quickly disappeared with consecutive shaky performances.

On Tuesday, the fallout began when the Chargers parted ways with Joe Lombardi and Shane Day, their former offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, respectively.

Staley pointed to the team's struggles running the ball — the Chargers finished 30th in yards rushing — as a determining factor in making changes to his offensive staff.

Since he was hired in January 2021, Staley has talked about a desire for the Chargers to be a tough, line-of-scrimmage team. In his two seasons, the team hasn't reached that status.

"I think that there's a different level that we need to play at offensively," Staley said, "particularly at the line of scrimmage in the run game and having the marriage of the run and the pass, creating more explosions on early downs.

"There's just a style of play that's still out there for us. I think we've made improvements each season toward heading where I think we can ultimately go as a football team."

The Chargers' loss Saturday night was made possible in part because they were unable to run the ball in the second half and consume valuable time off the clock. They rushed eight times for 20 yards after halftime.

An improved running game, Staley explained, will only help quarterback Justin Herbert's pass production and the offense's overall ability to generate big plays.

"The offenses that I think are the most challenging to defend," he said, "are the ones that put a lot of pressure on you every snap in terms of marrying the run game to the pass game."

One of the most prominent names available as a replacement for Lombardi is Frank Reich, who was in his fifth season as Indianapolis' head coach before being fired in early November.

Reich spent two years — 2014-15 — as the Chargers' offensive coordinator under Mike McCoy. Along with offensive coordinator interest, Reich is a candidate for at least two open head coaching jobs.

Staley on Wednesday talked more glowingly of pursuing a coordinator from the Kyle Shanahan-Sean McVay coaching tree, explaining, "That's the offense that I believe in."

Those candidates could include Mike LaFleur, who most recently was offensive coordinator of the New York Jets, and two Rams assistants: Thomas Brown (assistant head coach/tight ends) and Zac Robinson (pass game coordinator/quarterbacks coach).

Whomever the Chargers hire, the emphasis will be on becoming a more complete offense that isn't overly reliant on Herbert's right arm.

"What you have to have is the balance," Staley said. "You have to put pressure on the defense. You have to put the pressure on them on the perimeter, on the interior, top shelf of the coverage, level two. ... That's what it takes to become an explosive team."

The loss at Jacksonville included the most startling moment of Staley's head coaching tenure to date, an odd-looking exchange involving a frustrated Joey Bosa.

Mad at the officials, Bosa slammed his helmet to the turf as he was leaving the field in the fourth quarter. Staley quickly retrieved the helmet and handed it back to Bosa, who threw it down again.

Staley was asked if the incident hinted at a program teetering on out of control, especially given that Bosa is one of the Chargers' team captains.

"Anyone that knows our football team knows that ... isn't true," he said. "[They know] our locker room is tight, that we made improvements in every way and that the culture of our team is as strong as it has ever been since I've been here.

"That's what I saw after the game and the next day — as compared to a year ago — just how much tighter our locker room is. That's why it was so disappointing because I know that, dissimilar to last year, this team felt like it could win a world championship.

"I think that's a really positive thing. Now, we just have to get our minds engineered toward what's next and making the improvements that we need to make."

Surprise! He's still the coach of the Chargers

[**Plaschke,** from B10]
into the media workroom at the Chargers' Costa Mesa facility holding a coffee and wearing a smile and taking his place behind the podium and it was like ... gotcha!

Yeah, he really wasn't fired, and the only thing more surprising was that he didn't show up wearing Joey Bosa's helmet.

No, he said, he never thought his job was in danger.

"I have a lot of confidence in the way we've done things for two years," he said.

You mean the two seasons that ended in coaching implosions?

"I know the type of improvements that we've been able to make, as a football team, since I've been here," he said.

Were those improvements in a running game that disintegrated or a defense that folded?

"I think that the way we finished the season, the way that we finished down the stretch, shows you all of the things that we're excited about moving forward," he said.

How you finished? Was that two seasons ago when shoddy game management cost you a tie with the Las Vegas Raiders and a spot in the playoffs? Or was that last weekend when you blew a 27-0 lead in a wild-card game in Jacksonville?

"I know the culture that we have in our locker room, I know the quality of the product on the field, and I also know the capacity that we have to grow," he said.

Yet the culture is still all about "Chargering," the product on the field wasted another great season by quarterback Justin Herbert, and the capacity to grow appears limited by its struggling coach.

Again, why didn't Brandon Staley get fired?

The Spanos family just doesn't work like that. They value consistency, even if that consistency is troubling mediocrity. They value thriftiness, even if it costs them a chance to nab the NFL's most valuable free-agent coach in former New Orleans Saints boss Payton.

The Spanos' are running a newly hot Los Angeles team as if they were still in San Diego, and that attitude will cool matters quickly.

The Rams gave Jeff Fisher 13 games in Los Angeles before he was dumped for eventual rock star Sean McVay. The Rams know that in this market, you better quickly make a splash or risk an ugly drowning.

The Chargers have given Staley 35 games. He has won barely half of them. He has been heavily criticized and even blamed for losses in several of them. There were the risky fourth-down calls from the previous season.

There was his decision to expose Mike Williams to a needless injury in a meaningless game at the end of this season, a move that might have cost them their playoff game. Then, of course, he ultimately was outcoached by Jacksonville's Doug Pederson in their near-historic meltdown last weekend.

The Denver Broncos recently ousted Nathaniel Hackett after 15 games. The Houston Texans have gone through four coaches in three years.

Thirty-five games for an NFL coach is not a small sample size. Thirty-five games is enough to know what you've got ... and what you don't.

What the Chargers have in Staley is a smart, engaging 40-year-old who is pleasant enough to hold a 40-minute news conference in the middle of a job crisis and caring enough to earn the admiration of the veterans in the locker room.

What they don't have in Staley — after two full seasons of hoping — is a savvy game manager and strategist who finally can put this franchise on a Los Angeles map.

The time is right. The time is now. They are no longer castaways from San Diego. They have become entertaining inhabitants of the city's showcase stadium with a glamour quarterback and cool uniforms and it feels as if the town is ready to swoon.

The fans are there. The buzz is there. Judging from the prolonged furor over last weekend's meltdown, a powerful and surging interest is there.

But the coach is not there. Not yet. Maybe not ever. But there he was Wednesday morning, back to work, surprise, surprise.

"I was not worried about that," Staley said of his job status, "because I know what goes on here on a day-to-day basis and I know what we have in the locker room, I know what is out on that field. I am excited to keep going."

It would be easy to be excited with him, if one thought he was willing to make the changes that would elevate his coaching to a championship level. But over the last two seasons, every public hard look in the mirror seems to be accompanied by a stubbornness that inhibits the sort of self-examination that leads to growth.

Instead of becoming a better Brandon Staley, he is becoming the next Clay Helton.

Yes, Staley publicly acknowledged responsibility for the Jacksonville loss in a message he also delivered to his team.

"I needed to coach better in all three phases in order to help us finish that game," he said. "I didn't do a good enough job of that. I take full responsibility."

But then, unlike when his mentor McVay acknowledged he was outcoached by New England's Bill Belichick in Super Bowl LIII, Staley would not cop to obviously being badly outmaneuvered by Pederson. Seriously, did you see that fourth-down outside run by Travis Etienne?

"I just thought it was a high-level game all of way around. ... I know that we were coaching at a high level," Staley said.

When asked about Williams, whose large pass-catching presence easily could have prevented the Chargers' wild-card collapse, Staley said he wouldn't change a thing. He said he has to treat all players the same. This means he would play Williams again in a meaningless regular-season finale that resulted in a broken back? Really?

"It was tough to lose Mike in that game [but] ... I think, doing it over again, I'm proud of our process," he said.

When asked about picking up Bosa's thrown helmet not once but twice against Jacksonville — making it appear as if he was enabling a player who just committed a game-costing penalty — he also said wouldn't change a thing.

"I saw a player having a tough moment ... you're there for your player," Staley said. "I would do it over again."

It is the Chargers fans who are now having a tough moment. It is the Chargers fans who need someone to pick them up.

The club fired offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi and quarterbacks coach Shane Day, but that is not going to placate anybody.

By keeping Staley, they are betting that he will evolve faster than the chatter of a mob that was certain he would be gone.

Like a bolt out of the powder blue, he's back.

It is the Chargers' biggest bet yet.

U.S. camp roster has five from World Cup

USMNT roster

The U.S. men's national soccer team roster for the first training camp of the 2026 World Cup cycle:

Goalkeepers: Roman Celentano (FC Cincinnati), Sean Johnson (Unattached), Gaga Slonina (Chelsea).

Defenders: Jonathan Gómez (Real Sociedad), Julian Gressel (Vancouver Whitecaps), DeJuan Jones (New England Revolution), **Aaron Long (LAFC)**, **Jalen Neal (Galaxy)**, Sam Rogers (Rosenborg), John Tolkin (New York Red Bulls), Walker Zimmerman (Nashville SC).

Midfielders: Paxten Aaronson (Eintracht Frankfurt), **Kellyn Acosta (LAFC)**, Aidan Morris (Columbus Crew), Paxton Pomykal (FC Dallas), Alan Soñora (Unattached), Eryk Williamson (Portland Timbers).

Forwards: Paul Arriola (FC Dallas), Cade Cowell (San Jose Earthquakes), Jesús Ferreira (FC Dallas), Matthew Hoppe (Middlesbrough), Emmanuel Sabbi (Odense), Brandon Vazquez (FC Cincinnati), Alejandro Zendejas (Club América).

LAFC's Acosta, Long among the veterans for games against Serbia and Colombia.

By Kevin Baxter

Five players who were on the U.S. team in last year's World Cup top a 24-man roster that was called up Wednesday for the national team's first training camp of the new World Cup cycle.

Midfielder Kellyn Acosta and defender Aaron Long of LAFC, center back Walker Zimmerman of Nashville SC, FC Dallas forward Jesús Ferreira and former New York City goalkeeper Sean Johnson, who were all on the American team in Qatar, are among 16 domestic-based players summoned by assistant coach Anthony Hudson, who will run the weeklong camp while U.S. Soccer continues its investigation into former manager Gregg Berhalter.

Berhalter, whose four-year contract expired Dec. 31, a month after he led the U.S. into the World Cup's round of 16, admitted earlier this month that he had a physical altercation in 1991 with the woman who later became his wife while both were 18-year-old college freshmen. The federation hired an Atlanta law firm to look into the incident.

Hudson's roster also includes Galaxy defender Jalen Neal, 19, and forwards Brandon Vazquez and Alejandro Zendejas, dual nationals who are being called up for the first time. Vazquez plays in MLS with FC Cincinnati and Zendejas is with Mexico's Club América. They are among 13 players who will be looking for their first international cap in friendlies with Serbia on Wednesday at Banc of California Stadium and Colombia on Jan. 28 at Dignity Health Sports Park.

The average age of the roster is 24 years, 7 weeks, and eight players are age-eligible for the 2024 Paris Olympics, which is a U-23 tournament.

Zendejas, 24, who grew up in El Paso and made his professional debut with FC Dallas, is one of seven non-MLS players on the roster, most for a USMNT's January camp. Dating to 1999, 30 players who played either their first or second international games during the first camp of a calendar year have gone on to make a World Cup roster.

That list includes Jozy Altidore, DaMarcus Beasley, Carlos Bocanegra, Clint Dempsey and Landon Donovan, all of whom made more than 100 international appearances.

The game with Serbia will be the first the men's national team will play at Banc of California Stadium. The U.S. has played 17 times at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson, going 12-2-3. The national team has played 114 times in California, most of any state.

TOP 25 COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Big Bell rings up No. 14 TCU

ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Virginia's physical brand of basketball under coach Bob Huggins was too much for Texas Christian to handle.

The Mountaineers took advantage of a bruising inside performance behind 285-pound forward Jimmy Bell Jr. to build a big early lead and outlast No. 14 TCU 74-65 in Morgantown, W.Va., on Wednesday night.

Bell, a junior college transfer, had 15 points and a season-high 12 rebounds for his second double-double. Before the start of the season, the 6-foot-10 Bell had changed his diet and workout habits and lost about 75 pounds.

"Jimmy was terrific, but you know, Jimmy is a guy who really cares," Huggins said. "He's a guy who works really hard. When you think about a guy who came in here and lost the weight that he lost in order to be able to play, his skill level has gotten so much better."

Kedrian Johnson scored 20 points to lead West Virginia (11-7, 1-5 Big 12). TCU (14-4, 3-3) has lost three of its last four after starting the season 13-1.

at Seton Hall 67, No. 15 Connecticut 66: KC Ndefo grabbed a rebound and made a follow-up layup with 1.6 seconds remaining to give the Pirates (12-8, 5-4 Big East) a come-from-behind win over the Huskies (15-5, 4-5).

at DePaul 73, No. 8 Xavier 72: Umoja Gibson scored 22 points, Javan Johnson added 16 and the Blue Demons (9-10, 3-5 Big East) surprised the Musketeers (15-4, 7-1), who had won 11 in a row.

Women

at Texas Tech 68, No. 25 Texas 64: Bre'Amber Scott scored 31 points, her second straight with 30-plus, and the Red Raiders (15-4, 3-3 Big 12) upset the Longhorns (13-6, 4-2) for their third consecutive win.

No. 6 Indiana 83, at No. 21 Illinois 72: Mackenzie Holmes scored 30 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and Grace Berger added 18 points to lead the Hoosiers (17-1, 7-1 Big Ten) over the Illini (15-4, 5-3).

Results

MEN'S TOP 25
DePaul 73, No. 8 Xavier 72
No. 10 Virginia 78, Virginia Tech 68
West Virginia 74, No. 14 Texas Christian 65
Seton Hall 67, No. 15 Connecticut 66
No. 16 Auburn 67, Louisiana State 49
No. 20 Marquette 83, No. 22 Providence 75
Missouri 79, No. 25 Arkansas 76

PAC-12
Oregon 87, California 58

WOMEN'S TOP 25
No. 6 Indiana 83, No. 21 Illinois 72
No. 10 Iowa 84, Michigan State 81 (OT)
No. 15 Oklahoma 93, Texas Christian 66
No. 18 Iowa State 69, Oklahoma State 64
Texas Tech 68, No. 25 Texas 64

SOUTHLAND

MEN TONIGHT

UC Riverside at UC Davis 5
USC at Arizona 6
Loyola Marymount at Gonzaga 6
Hawaii at UC Irvine 7
Cal State Fullerton at Long Beach State 7
Cal State Northridge at UC Santa Barbara 7
UCLA at Arizona State 7:30
Saint Mary's at Pepperdine 8

Robert Gauthier Los Angeles Times

ADEM BONA seems fearless as he navigates traffic against USC in a Jan. 5 Pac-12 meeting. The UCLA freshman had a career-high 10 rebounds in the win.

Bona is bringing smiles to Bruins

[**UCLA,** from B10]
court to embrace student managers in a group hug, everyone pulling in tight to marinate in the moment.

"He's in like the CEO percentile of attitude and energy level; it's really, really hard to find," UCLA coach Mick Cronin said. "When you see somebody that's that positive, that energetic, always has a smile, it stands out because the rest of us don't."

The smile is a tribute to the mother who guided Bona's family through tragedy while providing her own joy from afar, breaking into gospel songs when they speak on the phone.

"I would say," Bona said on the eve of the No. 5 Bruins' showdown against Arizona State on Thursday night at Desert Financial Arena, "I'm a copy of my mom."

::

The go-go big man might not have gone anywhere in basketball if he didn't have to go.

Stepping outside his mother's Nigerian store to use the roadside as a restroom several years ago, the 13-year-old, already around 6-7, towered over the car he was using as cover.

A local basketball player passing by, struck by the boy's height, asked if he played the sport. No, the boy who then went by his given name of Ikechukwu told him, he played soccer like most everyone else in the country.

It was the pursuit that gave the boy his blazing speed and made him challenge everyone he encountered to races that he knew he would likely win.

Undeterred, the player followed the boy to his mother's store. Udu Chinyere had taken over the shop in Lagos from her late husband, Chikaodiri Okoro, selling foodstuffs and trading goods. Okoro, known as "The Big Elephant" because of his size and masculinity, died before Ikechukwu was born as the last of five siblings. The boy grew up playing soccer most every day at school, near his home and even on holidays, but now this strange man was touting another sport. His mother was hesitant. She asked how much she would have to pay for her son to play basketball.

Nothing, the man told her. He would teach the boy, showing him the basics during weekend training sessions. Bona's two older brothers, noting their sibling's sprouting frame, pleaded with their mother to let him try the new endeavor.

She agreed.

It was the start of a journey that would take Bona from his homeland to Turkey to Napa to Los Angeles, the budding prospect going places he once never imagined.

"I thought I was going to be a professional soccer player," said Bona, who now could be only months away from being selected in the NBA draft.

'He runs, he blocks shots, runs down to the other end of the floor and dunks on people. ... What more can you ask for from a big?'

—Jaime Jaquez Jr., UCLA forward

::

Weekend training sessions and streetball pickup games were going to take the teenager only so far. He needed advanced instruction and better competition if he wanted to more than dabble in his new sport.

About a year after being discovered on that roadside, he hit the road. Moving with his mother to Turkey, where they both adopted new names in a nod to local culture, Bona honed his game in workouts for a few years before being invited to join the national team.

His next opportunity came via the modern marvel of Instagram. Program directors from Prolific Prep in Napa, Calif., messaged him on the social media platform, asking if he would be interested in coming to play for them.

Initially reluctant, Bona needed a nudge from his mother. She knew this would be the next logical step in his basketball career, even if it meant he would have to leave her behind for his final two years of high school.

He bid farewell and boarded a plane, headed for another country where he didn't know anyone. Paired with a host family, Bona quickly befriended everyone he met, his radiant smile his biggest asset.

Billy McKnight, who coached Bona for his final season at Prolific Prep, recalled him celebrating a big victory with more abandon than his teammates even though he had not played because of an injury.

"He's going to leave an imprint on the kids he plays with and the coaches that he's played for no matter where he goes," McKnight said, "because of his personality and how hard he plays and the quality of character that he has."

Courted by some of the nation's top college programs, including Kansas and Kentucky, Bona was torn anew about his future. As usual, mother knew best, steering him toward UCLA.

"She was thinking about it like a win-win situation for me," Bona said, "saying you have one of the best schools in the world just for basketball and academically wise, you can't turn it down. I was like, 'Yes, mom.' "

::

Blessed with the widest wingspan (7 feet 4), biggest hands (10.25 inches across) and largest feet (size 17) on the Bruins, Bona has had an impact in recent weeks that can't be measured for a team that has won 13 in a row, the longest streak in the nation among major conference teams.

He made the go-ahead basket in a comeback win over Washington State, snatched a career-high 10 rebounds against USC and jolted his team out of a lengthy funk with his strong play on both ends of the court in the second half against Colorado.

"This guy is incredible, man," UCLA forward Jaime Jaquez Jr. said of a teammate who was selected the Pac-12 Conference's freshman of the week twice in a row. "He runs, he blocks shots, runs down to the other end of the floor and dunks on people. I mean, what more can you ask for from a big?"

How about switching onto a jitterbug of a point guard? Bona did that too, stepping out on the wing last weekend to contest Colorado's KJ Simpson. The guard challenged Bona, driving to the basket. It appeared he beat the big man for a layup before Bona recovered, extending his arm to block the shot.

Bona's highlights have increased in frequency after a month or so of dropped passes, foul trouble and unsteady footwork. He's improved in all areas, largely as a result of avoiding the fouls that kept him off the court.

Among other things, Bona has learned to get into defensive position earlier, keep his hands where the referees can see them and avoid reaching fouls on the perimeter. As his fouls have decreased, his production has soared. Over the last five games, he's averaged 11.4 points and 6.4 rebounds while making 67.6% off his shots.

His teammates are flinging him more passes every game, both in the half-court offense and in transition, capitalizing on the speed he developed in his homeland long before he caught his first lob.

"For my height, it doesn't make sense," Bona said of his greatest athletic gift, "but in my head it makes sense."

Bona's celebratory dances in the locker room also have a genetic component because they resemble moves that he's seen his mother make. Mother and son haven't seen each other except over FaceTime chats since he departed Turkey, but they still share special moments.

After her other sons told her about their younger sibling's recent 15-point, eight-rebound performance against Utah, she called and serenaded him with another song. He cracked up.

"It was so funny, I was dying," he said, the smile on a mother's son widening once more.

PRO CALENDAR

	THU 19	FRI 20	SAT 21	SUN 22	MON 23
LAKERS		**MEMPHIS** 7 ESPN, SpecSN		**at Portland** 6 SpecSN	
CLIPPERS		**at San Antonio** 5 BSSC		**at Dallas** 4:30 BSSC	
KINGS	**DALLAS** 7:30 BSW		**at Nashville** 5 BSW	**at Chicago** 4 BSW	
DUCKS	**at Columbus** 4 BSSC		**at Buffalo** 9:30 a.m. BSSC		

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASKETBALL		
Noon	Chicago vs. Detroit at Paris	**TV:** NBA
4:30 p.m.	Golden State at Boston	**TV:** TNT
7 p.m.	G League, Motor City at South Bay Lakers	**TV:** SpecSN
7 p.m.	Brooklyn at Phoenix	**TV:** TNT
COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
3 p.m.	Women, Miami at North Carolina State	**TV:** ACC
3:30 p.m.	Women, Northwestern at Ohio State	**TV:** Big Ten
3:30 p.m.	Rutgers at Michigan State	**TV:** FS1
4 p.m.	Michigan at Maryland	**TV:** ESPN
4 p.m.	Purdue at Minnesota	**TV:** ESPN2
4 p.m.	Women, Notre Dame at Clemson	**TV:** BSW
4 p.m.	Women, South Carolina at Vanderbilt	**TV:** SEC
4 p.m.	Wichita State at Memphis	**TV:** ESPNU
4 p.m.	North Carolina Wilmington at Hofstra	**TV:** CBSSN
5 p.m.	Women, Duke at North Carolina	**TV:** ACC
5:30 p.m.	Indiana at Illinois	**TV:** FS1
5:30 p.m.	Women, Michigan at Rutgers	**TV:** Big Ten
6 p.m.	Women, Arkansas at Louisiana State	**TV:** SEC
6 p.m.	Washington at Colorado	**TV:** ESPNU
6 p.m.	USC at Arizona	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA **R:** 790
6 p.m.	Western Kentucky at Louisiana Tech	**TV:** CBSSN
7:30 p.m.	UCLA at Arizona State	**TV:** FS1 **R:** 570
8 p.m.	Pacific at San Francisco	**TV:** BSSC
8 p.m.	Brigham Young at Santa Clara	**TV:** CBSSN
8 p.m.	Saint Mary's at Pepperdine	**TV:** ESPNU
8 p.m.	Oregon State at Stanford	**TV:** Pac-12
GOLF		
9 a.m.	LPGA Tournament of Champions, first round	**TV:** Golf
Noon	The American Express, first round	**TV:** Golf
4 p.m.	Champions Tour, Mitsubishi Electric Championship, first round	**TV:** Golf
11:30 p.m.	DP World Tour, Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, second round	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY		
4 p.m.	Ducks at Columbus	**TV:** BSSC **R:** Duck Stream
6 p.m.	Tampa Bay at Edmonton	**TV:** ESPN
7:30 p.m.	Dallas at Kings	**TV:** BSW **R:** iHeart, 1330
SOCCER		
9 a.m.	Exhibition, Paris Saint-Germain vs. Riyadh Season Team	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
TENNIS		
4 p.m.	Australian Open, third round	**TV:** ESPND
6 p.m.	Australian Open, third round	**TV:** ESPN2

NHL STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	28	15	2	58	147	130
Seattle	26	14	4	56	161	139
KINGS	25	15	6	56	154	157
Edmonton	25	18	3	53	169	152
Calgary	21	16	9	51	144	140
Vancouver	18	23	3	39	152	178
San Jose	13	23	9	35	137	172
DUCKS	12	28	5	29	105	190
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Dallas	26	12	7	59	156	119
Winnipeg	29	15	1	59	149	118
Minnesota	25	14	4	54	138	120
Colorado	23	17	3	49	135	122
Nashville	21	17	6	48	122	128
St. Louis	22	20	3	47	141	160
Arizona	14	25	5	33	119	161
Chicago	12	26	4	28	98	157

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	27	9	8	62	141	120
New Jersey	29	12	3	61	156	116
NY Rangers	25	13	7	57	144	120
Washington	24	17	6	54	150	133
Pittsburgh	22	15	7	51	143	135
NY Islanders	23	19	4	50	137	128
Philadelphia	19	19	7	45	127	145
Columbus	13	29	2	28	111	172
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Boston	35	5	4	74	170	95
Toronto	27	11	7	61	152	121
Tampa Bay	29	13	1	59	157	124
Florida	21	20	5	47	152	158
Buffalo	21	19	3	45	163	150
Detroit	18	17	8	44	134	149
Ottawa	20	21	3	43	131	143
Montreal	19	23	3	41	120	163

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

RESULTS

AT OTTAWA 5 PITTSBURGH 4 (OT)	Brady Tkachuk scored 25 seconds into overtime. The Senators converted on four of their nine power plays.
BOSTON 4 AT N.Y. ISLANDERS 1	Charlie McAvoy and Derek Forbort scored in the second period. Goalie Linus Ullmark won his 100th career game.
COLORADO 4 AT CALGARY 1	Artturi Lehkonen and Mikko Rantanen each scored two goals, and three Avalanche players had two assists.
TAMPA BAY 5 AT VANCOUVER 2	Steven Stamkos scored his 500th career regular-season goal and finished with a hat trick for the Lightning.
AT SAN JOSE 5 DALLAS 3	Erik Karlsson scored his 15th goal of the season and had three assists, and the Sharks had five unanswered goals.

TODAY'S GAMES

Dallas at KINGS, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.
Florida at Montreal, 4 p.m.
Winnipeg at Toronto, 4 p.m.
Nashville at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Washington at Arizona, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at Seattle, 7 p.m.
DUCKS at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Carolina, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 4:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Edmonton, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Vegas, 7 p.m.

SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

Felix has a place to call her own at USC

HELENE ELLIOTT

Allyson Felix didn't have to give USC a pile of money for the field at the Trojans' track stadium to be named for her.

Her alma mater will honor Felix, a Los Angeles native and the most decorated American track and field athlete in Olympics history, for giving of herself — for being a shining example of the power of one person and of the great resonance of a voice that might once have trembled but found the strength to bring about change for those whose voices often aren't heard.

USC announced Wednesday that Allyson Felix Field will be dedicated at Katherine B. Loker Stadium this spring. The field previously carried the name of Dean Cromwell, a former USC track coach who was criticized for anti-Black views and antisemitic actions.

The university could have named the field for a philanthropist, as Loker was. It could have sold the naming rights. With that in mind, Felix was shocked when USC President Carol Folt called her to discuss naming the field — previously known as Cromwell Field — for her.

"All the time when you hear about buildings being named, it's usually a huge

[See **Elliott,** B6]

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

ALLYSON FELIX won 11 Olympic medals in the 200, 400 and relays.

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

UCLA'S ADEM BONA brings his radiant personality to the Bruins from Lagos, Nigeria, with stops in Turkey and Napa. The 6-foot-10 freshman center has been playing basketball since age 13.

His joyful noise hits high notes for UCLA

Freshman Bona's rim-rattling smile has No. 5 Bruins on the rise

BY BEN BOLCH

TEMPE, Ariz. — His Nigerian name means God's power. His greatest gift might be spreading joy to others.

That is, of course, unless you are wearing the jersey of the other team.

During UCLA's victory over USC this month, the Bruins big man foiled the Trojans twice in an eight-second span. First, it was stepping over to block a Kobe Johnson layup. Then it was outrunning the defense to dunk a Tyger Campbell lob.

College basketball, meet Adem Bona.

He won't be around much longer if he keeps playing like this.

"The fans are cheering, it's the SC game and I'm hyped, our biggest rival, my first time playing them," the 6-foot-10 freshman center said breathlessly of his favorite play from his first 2½ months as a Bruin. "I'm fired up, I was like, 'Yeah, let's go!' "

Everywhere Bona goes is his happy place.

He weaves a joyful path inside Pauley Pavilion, his long arms raised above his head and a wide smile overtaking his face as he waves to students during pregame roll call. He slaps hands with teammates, pounds his chest as part of an introductory video shown on the scoreboard and breaks out that smile again, as if it's a requirement for wearing the four letters across his chest.

After sparking a second-half rally against Colorado last weekend, Bona lingered on the

[See **UCLA,** B9]

ANOTHER CLOSE LOSS BY LAKERS

They lose steam after 39-point first quarter, rally to tie it late but falter at finish again.

SACRAMENTO 116 LAKERS 111

BY DAN WOIKE

The swings were wild, 14 points in the Lakers' favor after a red-hot first quarter and 14 points back toward the Sacramento Kings in the second half.

But with a little more than four minutes left, the score was even — the Kings and Lakers about to enter crunch time with the outcome undecided.

The Kings have been one of the better teams in this situation, Wednesday being their 24th game within five points in the final four minutes. They'd won 13 of them with guard De'Aaron Fox quietly becoming one of the league's top clutch players.

The Lakers? For them, it's been a mixed bag, the early season struggles in tight games giving way to improved play before losses to Dallas and Philadelphia in the last week renewed old concerns.

At best, the Lakers were uneven down the stretch Wednesday night, trailing by five before coming back, only to blow it with defensive gaffes and more bad offense. The mistakes eventually cost them another tight game, the Lakers losing to the Kings 116-111 at Crypto.com Arena.

Following a LeBron James three-point play to tie the score, the Kings' Harrison Barnes easily split a double team by Patrick Beverley and Russell Westbrook to score while being fouled.

The Lakers wasted a possession, settling for a tough James three-point attempt before Juan Toscano-An-

[See **Lakers,** B7]

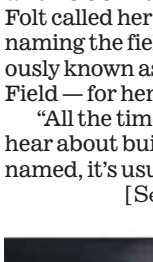
UTAH 126, CLIPPERS 103

L.A. below .500

Lauri Markkanen scores 34 points as Jazz hand short-handed Clippers (23-24) another loss. **B7**

Surprise! He's still the coach. So now what?

BILL PLASCHKE



The Chargers held a news conference for their coach Wednesday morning and you'll never guess who showed up.

Brandon Staley!

He's still here. He's still their leader. He's still the boss. He didn't get whacked. He didn't get dumped. He didn't get canned. If you listen to him, he didn't even get scolded.

"When I talk about alignment," he said, "there's no better alignment that I have than with the Spanos family."

Turns out, the Spanos family never discussed firing him, never wondered about firing him, never even considered it, and Staley knew it.

While all of Los Angeles was screaming for his job, while the NFL experts were guessing about his replacement, while Sean Payton's phone was buzzing through Manhattan Beach, Staley was preparing for this news conference.

Shortly before noon, he calmly walked

[See **Plaschke,** B8]

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

BRANDON STALEY said he was proud of the Chargers' season, especially considering the numerous injuries and adversity the team dealt with throughout.

Staley stays confident in future of the Chargers

Coach, criticized for some of his late-season moves and decisions, says the team must strike a better balance on offense for success.

BY JEFF MILLER

Unlike many observers outside the organization, Brandon Staley said Wednesday he never felt his job as Chargers' head coach was in jeopardy.

Staley faced significant scrutiny throughout the middle part of the season and then again following the team's regular-season finale and subsequent wild-card playoff loss.

"I have a lot of confidence in the way we've done things for two years," he said. "I have a lot of confidence in what I see on the football field. I know the type of improvement that

[See **Chargers,** B8]

U.S. men's team ready for camp

LAFC's Kellyn Acosta and Aaron Long are two of five World Cup players called in for local friendlies. **B9**

USC, UCLA reveal football schedules

Trojans open with three games in a row at home and Bruins face an early road game at San Diego State. **B8**

No. 2 seed gets bounced

Casper Ruud is upset by American Jenson Brooksby in the second round of the Australian Open. **B6**

Los Angeles Times E

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023 ⁝ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

‘I didn’t want a white savior’

Nyani Nkrumah flips the racial script with her debut novel, ‘Wade in the Water.’

By Stuart Miller

Mr. McCabe, the older blind man down the street, is wise and loving and always makes the time. Nate, who owns the fried chicken joint, is generous and willing to lend an ear. Fats and Cammy are faithful friends. There are plenty of kind souls in Ella’s Black community in Ricksville, Miss., but life still brims with anguish for this precocious 11-year-old who is just starting to see the world, circa 1982, with clearer eyes.

Ella, the third of four children, is the only one among them with a different father, the product of an affair her mother had while Leroy was away. While her siblings are light, Ella is as dark as any African — a reminder of her mother’s shame. Ma is cold toward her; Leroy, well, he’s much worse.

Ella narrates much of the action in Nyani Nkrumah’s powerful debut novel, “Wade in the Water.” But some chapters tell the story of Kate, a white girl growing up in Philadelphia, Miss., in the 1950s and ’60s. Her father infects her with ideas that are vile even by the standards of that time and place. A violent KKK member, he helps

[See **Nkrumah,** E6]

Dania Maxwell Los Angeles Times

MICHAEL TILSON Thomas conducted the L.A. Phil last weekend.

MUSIC REVIEW

New depths for Mahler’s Ninth

L.A. Phil and Pacific Symphony lend different perspectives to the masterpiece.

MARK SWED
MUSIC CRITIC

Mahler’s Ninth Symphony, the last work he completed and his most personal, does and does not go gentle into the good night. He wrote it following the death of his young daughter and after learning of his heart disease diagnosis, which turned out to be fatal. The result is an abstract symphony that contains his deepest and most enduring last thoughts.

“Death has, on placid cat paws, entered the room,” I wrote of the fantastic effect Michael Tilson Thomas achieved when he began a memorable performance of this Ninth with the San Francisco Symphony, at Walt Disney Concert Hall in 2005.

Many years later at Disney, this last Sunday afternoon, Tilson Thomas conducted Mahler’s Ninth with

[See **Mahler,** E2]

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

JOANA VICENTE, left, CEO of the Sundance Institute, and Kim Yutani, the Park City, Utah, festival’s director of programming, have put together its first in-person gathering since 2020.

COMING BACK, BUT TO WHAT?

As they gather for the showcase’s in-person return, filmmakers, executives and organizers ponder its place in a changing culture

By Mark Olsen

When the Sundance Film Festival last came to Park City, it was the Before Times. Before COVID-19 drastically altered billions of lives, yes. But also before the carefully cultivated entertainment industry ecosystem of which the festival is a part was wildly upended.

In addition to halting the in-person version of the annual Utah conclave in 2021 and 2022, after all, the pandemic caused theatrical filmgoing to cease altogether for a time. And — for a host of reasons, from public health concerns to the proliferation of streaming platforms — audiences for the arthouse movies that are the festival’s lifeblood have been slow to return to cinemas in the years since. Even after producing last year’s Oscar winners for best picture (“CODA”) and documentary feature (“Summer of Soul”), Sundance returns to Park City on Thursday as the purpose of the festival, and perhaps of film festivals in general, seems ripe for reconsideration.

What, in 2023, is the Sundance Film Festival *for*?

“It kind of sets the tone for the year,” said Joana Vicente, CEO of Sundance Institute, citing the festival’s traditional January date and penchant for identifying and incubating emerging talent. “It’s this opportunity to spotlight all of the amazing new voices, new films that the team is excited about. And we put them out there and it’s like we are setting culture. We are really creating the conversation.”

“Sundance is a place where we convene so many different groups of people,” said Kim Yutani, the festival’s director of programming. “It’s filmmakers, of course, but then it’s also press, it’s industry, it’s people who just love independent cinema. And to be able to create a program full of new films, in some cases by people who are not household names, to be able to put them into a program and to launch these films with this kind of nexus of constituents, to me that feels like a privilege.”

There’s no doubt that Sundance continues to offer talent a path to higher-profile projects: Writer-director Lee Isaac Chung, to name just one,

[See **Sundance,** E6]

An ebb in L.A. days of filming

As pent-up demand deflated in late 2022, activity returned to pre-pandemic levels and a declining trend.

By Anousha Sakoui

On-location filming in Los Angeles took a dive in the fourth quarter of last year as studios pared back movie and TV production that surged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

From October to December, Los Angeles County recorded 8,674 shoot days, down 19.5% from the same period a year ago, FilmLA said in a report Wednesday. The nonprofit group handles film permits for the city and county. That final quarter brought the 2022 total shoot days to 36,792 across all categories, down 2.4% from 2021 and up 0.7% from 2019.

The last couple of years have seen a surge in filming driven by pent-up demand after the pandemic forced a multi-month shutdown, as well as the growth in demand from streaming platforms. Now production appears to be settling back to pre-pandemic levels.

“Q4 2022 is being compared against an unseasonably strong Q4 in 2021,” said Philip Sokoloski, spokesman for FilmLA, in an email. “The surge we saw in the first half of the year reversed mid-year 2022 for a very similar finish to 2021, viewed on an annual basis.”

L.A. saw a peak in film production in 2016, when the number of shoot days reached 39,627. The question now is whether production will continue to decline.

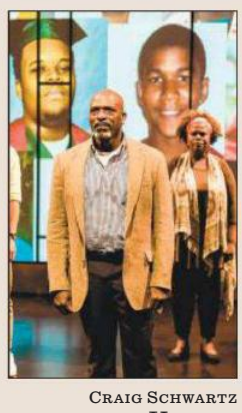
“Can we hold here, or will the pre-COVID downtrend resume?” asked FilmLA President Paul Audley. “That is the question everyone is asking.”

Filming of commercials took the biggest hit, falling 24.5% below its five-year annual average. In the fourth quarter, production fell 33.7%, to 828 shoot days. There were 4,119 shoot days for commercials in 2022, including for McDonald’s and Albertsons, down 22.6% from 2021.

TV remains the most active area of filming in L.A. County.

Television production ended the year 7.3% above its five-year annual average, FilmLA said. But activity dropped 9.6%, to 16,778 shoot days, in 2022, from the same

[See **Production,** E2]



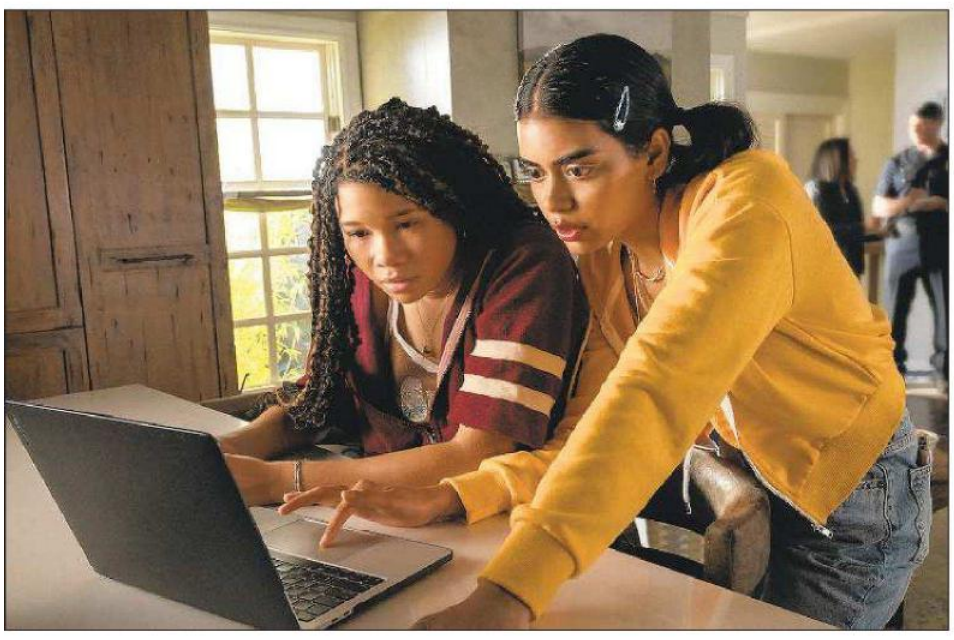
Craig Schwartz

BERNARD K. Addison and Monnae Michaell in DTLA’s “Citizen.”

It’s dry. Time to go out again
Weekend events include “Citizen: An American Lyric.” **E3**

This time, Mom is one ‘Missing’
More tech terrors in thrilling follow-up to 2018’s “Searching.” **E2**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**



TEMMA HANKIN Sony Pictures

JUNE (Storm Reid, left) and Veena (Megan Suri) put digital skills to work to follow trail of data bread crumbs that might lead to June's mother in "Missing."

MOVIE REVIEW

This time, Mom is the one 'Missing' in plain sight

Thrilling follow-up to 2018's 'Searching' turns up more terrors in tech and true crime.

BY KATIE WALSH

In 2018, director Aneesh Chaganty and co-writer Sev Ohanian turned in a nifty little thriller, "Searching," that comments on the way we live now, which is to say, online.

In it, John Cho searches for his missing daughter through her digital detritus, parsing clues that are in plain sight. The entirety of the film takes place on a computer screen, making use of the way cameras permeate our everyday existence, from FaceTime to surveillance video.

"Searching" was a critical and commercial success, and a follow-up, "Missing" — written and directed by Nick Johnson and Will Merrick, with a story by Chaganty and Ohanian — hits theaters this week.

This time, it's a parent that's gone missing, and as the daughter searches for her mother, she turns up a whole host of new terrors and triumphs of tech and true crime.

Johnson and Merrick use the format set by "Searching," but the technological, cultural and media landscape has evolved, including the fire hose of streaming true crime content.

The only time the camera is liberated from the laptop screen is during fake-out recreations from a Netflix true crime series called "Unfiction." There's also the proliferation of TikTok detectives and Twitter police performing armchair analysis on every missing person case.

If you've seen "Searching," you'll probably have an inkling that the answer will be planted in front of filmgoers, but "Missing" takes some absolutely wild and crazy twists and turns in arriving at its destination.

Eighteen-year-old June (Storm Reid) just wants to rage with friends while her mom, Grace (Nia Long), is on vacation in Colombia with new boyfriend Kevin (Ken Leung). But when a hung-over June rolls into LAX to pick them up a week later, the two are no-shows.

Relying on her impressive Google skills, innate to a digitally native member of Gen Z, June starts searching for her mom, combing tourist live cams, bank statements and hiring a Task-Rabbit-type helper, Javi (Joaquim de Almeida), to do footwork in Colombia.

June is smart, resourceful and bold, and the way she cracks passwords and navigates the maze of information will make anyone think deeply about how much data tracking one should leave toggled on in their Google account. Is it better to leave a trace? Depends on what you're doing.

The suspenseful "Missing" plows through nearly two hours of shocking plot twists at a breakneck pace. And while it's entertaining to be sure, it also takes on a somber tone as it reckons with grief, loss and intimate partner violence in a way that's very real, backed up by headlines ripped from the news, and yes, those true crime series and TikToks that are so very compelling.

That's what makes movies like "Searching" and "Missing" so captivating. They're not only high-concept thrillers featuring melodramatic acting (Reid is a likable presence, but it's doubtful she'll snag an Independent Spirit Award nod the way Cho did) but they also feel authentic to the way we live, even in the outlandish moments.

We experience so much of our reality online, unknowingly scattering artifacts of our lived experience as we click and swipe. But "Searching" and "Missing" reiterate that despite the pictures, videos, the bread crumbs of humanity reflected in zeroes and ones, there's nothing like the real thing, for better or for worse.

Walsh is a Tribune News Service film critic.

'Missing'

Rated: PG-13, for some strong violence, language, teen drinking and thematic material

Running time: 1 hour, 51 minutes

Playing: Starts Friday in general release

For your safety

The Times is committed to covering indoor arts and entertainment events during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because attending carries risks during this time, we remind readers to follow health and safety guidelines as outlined by the CDC and local health officials.

L.A. filming declines after surge

[**Production,** from E1]
period in 2021. The sector recorded a 24.2% drop, to 3,735 shoot days during the fourth quarter, versus the same period of the previous year.

TV comedies in particular took a sharp hit, down 33.9%, to 353 shoot days in the fourth quarter, from the same period of 2021. The full year for comedy TV ended down 2.2%, at 1,273 shoot days, from the year before. HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and Peacock's "Killing It" were among those shooting locally in the last quarter.

L.A. welcomed Netflix movies "Atlas" and "Beverly Hills Cop 4" in the last quarter, but the amount of film production continues to trend downward.

The last year saw feature film production down 24% from its five-year average. The fourth quarter ended up with 760 shoot days, down 16.2% from the same period in 2021. The full year registered 3,080 shoot days, down 9.6% from 2021.

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ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
CORSAGE 1:00 PM
LIVING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:30
NO BEARS 1:30 4:30 7:20

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
SAINT OMER PG-13 1:20 4:10 7:15
ALCARRÀS 4:15 PM
TURN EVERY PAGE - THE ADVENTURES OF ROBERT CARO AND ROBERT GOTTLIEB PG 1:30 7:10
BROKER R 1:05 4:00 7:00
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:10 PM
EO 4:30 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 1:00 7:00
TÁR R 1:00 4:10 7:20
GROUND SWELL: THE OTHER SIDE OF FEAR 7:30 PM
ON SACRED GROUND 4:20 PM

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
KITCHEN BRIGADE 4:30 PM
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
BROKER R 1:00 4:00 7:00
CORSAGE 1:20 7:20
LIVING PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:30
EMPIRE OF LIGHT R 4:15 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:10 6:55

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:10 4:15 7:20
PLANE R 1:20 4:10 7:00
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:10
BABYLON R 3:35 PM
WHITNEY HOUSTON: I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY PG-13 7:00 PM
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:00 4:20 7:30
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER PG-13 1:20 6:30
THE WHALE R 1:10 4:00 7:20
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 PM

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
SKINAMARINK 4:30 PM
BROKER R SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 1:00 7:10
CORSAGE 1:15 7:20
LIVING PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:30
ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED 4:10 PM
EO SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 1:20 7:30
DECISION TO LEAVE SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 1:00 7:00
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 4:00 PM
THE TOMORROW JOB 4:20 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
PLANE R 1:10 4:00 7:00
SAINT OMER PG-13 1:10 7:30
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:20
BROKER R 1:00 4:10 7:10
BABYLON R 1:30 6:30
CORSAGE 4:20 PM
THE WHALE R 1:20 4:20 7:30
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:05

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
SAINT OMER PG-13 1:10 7:00
BROKER R 1:00 4:05 7:10
CORSAGE 4:10 PM
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:30 4:30 7:30
THE WHALE R 1:20 4:20 7:20

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Life-affirming final Mahler symphony

[**Mahler,** from E1]
the Los Angeles Philharmonic, ending the second of his two weeks with the orchestra. No cat's placid paws this time. The symphony begins like life itself does. First, a small hint in the cellos emulate a tiny heartbeat barely heard. A melody gradually evolves, note by note in the strings. A horn responds, fondly looking on at new life. Tilson Thomas savored all. His tempo was more patient than it had been 18 years earlier. The orchestra, simultaneously transparent yet extravagantly luxuriant, produced a richly textured sound with such presence that you felt like you could reach out and touch it.

At 107 minutes, it was an unusually slow performance, but one allowing full time for extreme swings of emotion, from a ravishing smelling of the roses to outbursts of untempered angst. Tilson Thomas showed unflinching patience, always gently guiding Mahler back to profound peace.

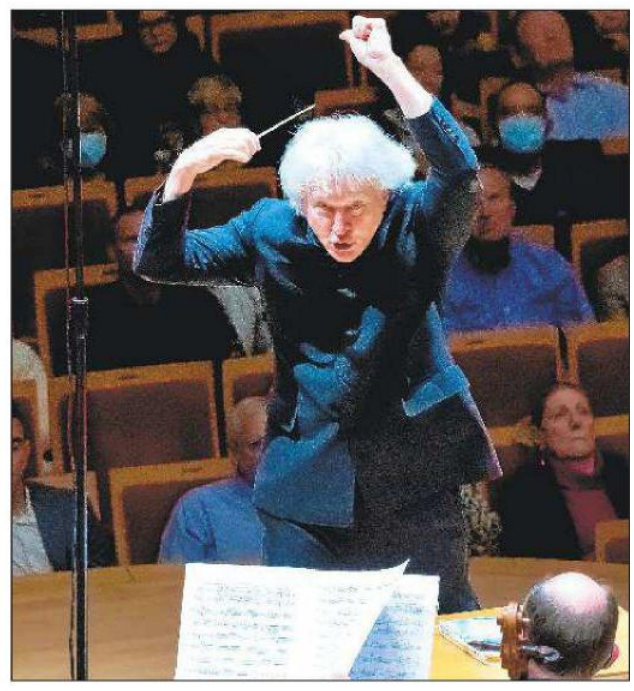
There are as many ways to perform and listen to the Ninth as there are performances and listeners. Again, like life itself and like only the most significant and meaningful art can convey, the symphony has an essence too mysterious and momentous to be fully revealed. It can never be taken lightly, and in my experience the L.A. Phil never has.

Although labeled the Columbia Symphony for contractual reasons, the L.A. Phil players recorded the Ninth in 1961 led by Bruno Walter, who had premiered the symphony the year after Mahler's death a half-century earlier. That recording is said to have launched the modern Mahler revival.

The first L.A. Phil Mahler 9 (and my first, as well) in 1969 was a solemn performance by the British Mahlerian John Barbirolli a few months before his death. Carlo Maria Giulini's 1975 performance was so moving that it generated false rumors that the Italian conductor must, himself, have been dying.

Zubin Mehta and Simon Rattle produced vital, life-affirming Ninths. Esa-Pekka Salonen's progressive Ninth brilliantly revealed just how much Mahler's last testament was also a new map for where music might (and did) go in the 20th century. An audacious 29-year-old Gustavo Dudamel began 2011 by conducting his first Ninth in his second season as L.A. Phil music director and then boldly took it on his first European tour with the orchestra.

Tilson Thomas has now added something new and different that cannot be put into words. It almost didn't sound like an interpretation. He let Mahler be. That is not to say that Tilson Thomas didn't impose his will or that he left his ego in his dressing room. His was not only an expert display of conducting, but also a demonstration of what might be called his loving gaze of Mahler in all his magnificent contradictions.



DOUG GIFFORD

CARL ST.CLAIR conducted the Pacific Symphony in a forceful, theatrical rendition of Mahler's Ninth.

The symphony is often represented as one of the most revealing portrayals of the psychological process of finding peace, as all that is put together in the symphony, its very life force, finally comes to its natural end while slowly diminishing in silence. Not a silence, though, of nothingness, but rather one of somethingness, the equivalent of white light that contains all colors. Mahler becomes, at the end, one with the universe.

The weekend proved exceptional, Mahler Ninth-wise, in another way. Just as the L.A. Phil had at Disney, the Pacific Symphony at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall devoted its three weekend concerts to Mahler's Ninth as well. Attending the Saturday-night performance made possible the rare opportunity to catch two major Mahler Ninth performances in less than 24 hours.

The Orange County orchestra may not have quite the resources of the L.A. Phil (no orchestra in America does), but its music director, Carl St.Clair, has been a devoted Mahlerian throughout his 33 years as music director of an orchestra he elevated to significance. And he happens to be on a Mahler 9 kick himself. Besides being a music director in Costa Mesa, he also is one in Costa Rica, where he serves as principal conductor of the country's National Symphony Orchestra. He closed that orchestra's 2022 season with the Ninth. Next, on Jan. 27, St.Clair will once more conduct the Ninth with the USC Thornton Symphony, of which he is also the principal conductor.

The Pacific Symphony performance offered an entirely different perspective on Mahler. St.Clair introduced the symphony by describing it as a voyage of suffering, from realization to reflection to rejoicing in life to resignation. He led it not from inside Mahler but rather as an outside observer, showing us how Mahler felt rather than having us feel how the great composer felt.

This was a forceful performance. The sound had power. The climaxes were explosive. The instrumental solos in the L.A. Phil purveyed a wonderful sense of freedom within a whole. The Pacific Symphony impressed by how its solos stood out. Everything was theater. The middle two movements, full of lively dances in the first and carnival-esque burlesque in the second, became orchestral showpieces.

By placing a large video screen over the stage, the Pacific Symphony added close-ups of the players and conductor, further adding to the theatrics. At the end, the camera stayed on St.Clair for a full minute of silence, his face contorted in grief, taking in the sheer momentousness of what had happened, holding off the applause. The sentimentality worked, stopping just short of becoming maudlin. This was a shattering performance that then came to a distinct end. We could then go back out into the rain.

Tilson Thomas didn't speak to the audience. While St.Clair's heart was comfortably and even impressively on his sleeve, there was no reading of Tilson Thomas' mind, as he himself is suffering, as Mahler was when writing the Ninth, from a life-threatening disease.

At the end, he simply stopped. No dramatic moment of silence. Nothing more to say. No sentimentality. The universe continues with its own business. All that was left was for Tilson Thomas to show his warm appreciation of the orchestra, which had played with what can only be called love. That the warmth carried over to an awestruck audience (there was hardly an empty seat) was unmistakable.

In the end, Tilson Thomas' once-in-a-lifetime Ninth on Sunday afternoon was in a class, and in a place, of its own. In Judaism, it would be called, for those who heard it and those who played and those who will hear it in the future (microphones hung over the stage), a mitzvah — a divine good deed.

DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS, right, who is also dealing with a life-threatening disease, led the L.A. Phil in Mahler's final work for a once-in-a-lifetime afternoon.

L.A. GOES OUT

Finally, a rainbow after the storm

Rains have stalled some arts events, but here's how you can enjoy the days of sun.

By Steven Vargas

Wondering what to do this weekend? You've come to the right place. Let's begin with five top picks.

1. Dance Camera West 2023

It's that time of the year: Dance Camera West is here! The dance film festival showcases innovative works from dancers and filmmakers alike. The festival — running from Thursday to Saturday — includes short films, discussions and free outdoor screenings. If you're new to dance films and are interested in learning more about the genre, DCW will also feature a workshop with choreographer and filmmaker Gabri Christa on Saturday at 11 a.m. The weekend festival takes place at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre in Hollywood and tickets range from $10 to $150, depending on the number of events you'd like to attend. More details can be found on the DCW website.

2. 'Kehinde Wiley: Colorful Realm'

Roberts Projects is debuting its new location in Hancock Park on Saturday — moving from Culver City — with an exhibition of new paintings by Kehinde Wiley titled "Colorful Realm." Wiley is best known for his contemporary takes on historical paintings, replacing the faces of existing subjects with Black and brown people to flip the narrative. The Times' Deborah Vankin recommends this new exhibition, which draws inspiration from Japanese nature paintings of the Edo period. The opening reception is Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m., and the exhibit will be open until April. More details can be found on the gallery's website.

3. Pilobolus 50th anniversary performance

This international modern dance company is reaching the "big five-oh!" Pilobolus, known for its shadow work choreography that was featured at the Academy Awards in 2007, has performed everywhere from "Sesame Street" to the Olympics. Now, it's celebrating its achievements with a 50th-anniversary show at Pepperdine University in Malibu next Wednesday. The event will include performances of "MegaWatt," "Solo Suitor," "The Ballad," "Behind the Shadows" and "Untitled." Tickets range from $25 to $55 and can be found on Pepperdine's website.

4. 'Citizen: An American Lyric'

With text straight from Claudia Rankine's award-winning book-length poem, the Fountain Theatre and Grand Performances present two free shows of the "Citizen: An American Lyric" stage adaptation Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. (with an additional preview scheduled for Friday at 8 p.m.). The text is adapted by Fountain Theatre's artistic director Stephen Sachs and upholds the same meditations on systemic racism and discrimination that Rankine wrote about. The show premiered at the East Hollywood theater company in 2015 and returns this year to Inner-City Arts' Rosenthal Theater in downtown Los Angeles with part of its original cast. You can RSVP on Fountain Theatre's website.

5. 'Alonzo Davis: The Blanket Series'

Parrasch Heijnen in Boyle Heights will be presenting its first solo exhibition with multimedia artist Alonzo Davis, co-founder of the Brockman Gallery in Leimert Park. His work ranges from print to performance to painting. The exhibition offers works from "The Blanket Series," pieces in which he weaves painted strips of canvas or paper together to create expressive works with exposed layers and textures. This listing comes from The Times' art and design critic Carolina Miranda, who highly recommends seeing it before it closes on Saturday. The gallery is free and open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Before attending, be sure to schedule your visit online. For more details, check out Parrasch Heijnen's website.

ON MY MIND

This past weekend, I went to MOCA Grand Avenue to see "Simone Forti," a new exhibition that documents Forti's six-decade career as a choreographer and contemporary artist. The exhibit includes artwork on paper, video and holograms. For me, the highlight was the re-creations of Forti's groundbreaking "Dance Constructions" from the 1960s. In the middle of the exhibition space, performers took part in three of Forti's "Dance Constructions": "Slant Board," "Hangers," and "Huddle."

In "Slant Board," three people climbed a slanted wooden board that had multiple ropes hanging from the top. The three performers held onto the ropes, either one or two at a time, and made their way up and down the surface. Forti's work displays the beauty of pedestrian movement. I was mesmerized by the ways performers were in unison. While they often did not look at each other, there was an understanding of community.

Afterward, our attention turned to the corner of the room for "Hangers." Three ropes hung from a protruding triangular addition to the gallery space close to the ceiling, connecting the two corner walls. As three performers stood in coils of rope hanging from the ceiling, others walked between them. The three swung to and fro, depending on the energy of those around them. No matter how much effort those on the ropes received or where they moved, they always returned to the center. The movement reminded me of a lesson I learned for a dance intensive I recently did with Hannah Millar: Take in the energy and emotions that influence us, accept them, then let them go. Those hanging from the ropes welcomed the energy of the performers bumping into each other and returned it.

Lastly, "Huddle" took up the center of the space. A larger group of performers gathered together, grasping tightly onto each other's legs for foundation. And when the unifying structure felt secure, one person would escape and get to another side of the circle. The only caveat is that they had to get there by climbing over the huddle of people. It tested expectations, not only in the way they got to another section of the huddle, but also in how they found fortitude. Slowly, we see more innovative ways to get across the top shell of people. Through each "Dance Construction," there is a reminder of unity permeating the space.

There are only three of Forti's nine "Dance Constructions," and they are worth a visit to the downtown L.A. gallery. Performances are 3:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Thursdays, and 12:30 p.m., 1:45 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission to MOCA is free and the exhibit runs until April 2.

On Friday, I decided to conclude the rainy week with a visit to the theater to see "Final Interview" by Gabriel Oliva at the Pico Playhouse. What drew me to the show was its absurd plot: A corporate job interview turns deadly when a gun is thrown into the mix. And the hype was worth it. The world premiere show was entertaining and unexpected. When Charles (Brian Stanton) lets Clayton (Oliva) into his office for an interview, the standard questions with a potential employer evolve into an interrogation. Clayton slowly picks away at Charles' career as an architect until the truth about negligence in his practice surfaces, revealing he was behind the collapse of an apartment complex that took the lives of many, including someone close to Clayton.

Although entertaining, certain moments took me out of the height of the situation, including Stanton's hyperactive reactions that feel too erratic for someone with a gun pointed at him. Combined with the lighting design by Helton Najera that brings in sudden metaphoric lighting changes based on the mood of the conversation, there is quite a bit being shown to the audience about the edgy situation instead of allowing the performers to sit in the terse tone shifts written on the page. The moment that caught my breath was Tessa walking into the office. Clayton hid behind the door, gun pointed right at Charles' head. Charles balanced his erratic side with a calmer one to keep Tessa safe, delivering each line differently, and finding the perfect tone to get Tessa out of the room safely.

"Final Interview" has three more shows: 8 p.m. next Friday and Saturday, and 7 p.m. next Sunday. Tickets are $30 and can be found online.

INSIGHTS

Events postponed or canceled due to storms

The rain has not only caused destruction and devastation, it has also led to event postponements and cancellations. If you're trying to plan ahead, here is a list of rescheduled openings and shows to keep you up to date:

• **"Wuthering Heights" at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**: Emma Rice's musical adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic tale has been canceled due to significant damage to the venue by the excessive rain. The show was scheduled to run until Jan. 21.

• **"For Submersion" by Sarah Rosalena with Clockshop**: Ironically, this installation on the Los Angeles River floodplain has been postponed due to excessive rain. While the installation required rain, the storms provided a bit too much water. The event at Los Angeles State Historic Park was initially planned for last Sunday but has now been postponed to 2 to 4 p.m. on Jan. 29.

• **Luis De Jesus Los Angeles opening reception for Mimi Smith and Hugo Crosthwaite's solo exhibitions**: The opening reception for the new solo exhibitions at the downtown Los Angeles gallery has been rescheduled from last Saturday to this Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. While the exhibit itself is still available to view, you'll have to wait a bit longer to celebrate the shows with fellow artists and art lovers. Details can be found on Luis De Jesus Los Angeles' website.

• **The Pit opening reception**: Raymie Iadevaia's solo exhibition "To the Ends of the Earth" and the group show "The Bioelectric Self" have been available to view at the Pit in Glendale since Saturday, but the opening reception for the shows has been rescheduled for Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m.

GO-OUT SPEED ROUND

Go out before it closes: New York-based artist Janiva Ellis' paintings will be on display at the Hammer Museum in Westwood until Sunday. The project echoes the architecture of the museum. The museum is free and open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Go out for free: Mey, a new gallery in West Hollywood, is launching its inaugural show today. "Between You and Me"features works by artists who explore the phrase by examining relationships. The show is free and runs until next Wednesday.

Go out and learn/craft: Cultivate a deeper connection with your spine with a dance performance at G-Son Studios in Atwater Village titled "You Live in My Spine." The show shares dance work that explores the bone structure of the spine, and examines the body's memory. The show runs Friday to Sunday, with performances at 8 p.m. each day. Tickets range from $10 to $25.

Go out with the kids: This Los Angeles Philharmonic concert at Walt Disney Concert Hall transports audiences into a Russian folk tale full of magic and romance. "The Firebird," a ballet by Igor Stravinsky, tells the story of a magical firebird that saves Prince Ivan and Princess Katerina from the evil King Koschei. The Saturday event starts at 11 a.m. and the remaining tickets cost $27.

Go out on a date: The Monterey Jazz Festival will be celebrating its 65th year at Walt Disney Concert Hall Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets range from $49 to $104 and can be found on the L.A. Phil's website.

Go out and wander: JMF Development is putting on an art show at Pershing Square Building today and tomorrow. It begins at 4 p.m. with a gallery from local artists that is available for viewing until 8:30 p.m. each night. And the reception at Mrs. Fish Japanese restaurant and whiskey bar is from 5 to 9 p.m. each night with complimentary drinks and sushi. Tickets range from $12 to $18.

Go out and experience NYC in LA: New York City-based dance company Gibney Company is making its way to the West Coast for an evening performance at Bovard Auditorium at USC on Friday at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public; just make sure to RSVP.

Go out for laughs: Jane Lynch from "Glee" will be hosting an evening of laughs with a cabaret at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa. "Jane Lynch & Her Friends Who Can Sing!" runs Thursday to Saturday with a show at 7:30 p.m. each day. Tickets cost $99.

From Roberts Projects

KEHINDE Wiley portrait art.

Brigid Pierce

PILOBOLUS modern dancers perform "Day Two," a piece about creation, at The Joyce Theater in 2019.

Pico Playhouse

GABRIEL OLIVA, top, and Brian Stanton, seated, star in Oliva's play "Final Interview."

This article is taken from the Jan. 18 edition of L.A. Goes Out, a weekly newsletter about what to do with your weekend. Sign up at latimes.com/newsletters.

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COMICS

SUDOKU

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	8			7	4			6
		9				4		
			6	1			2	
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	6	7	2	8				5

Level: Tough

4					
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	4			3	
					6

Level: Moderate

7	9	5	4	8	3	1	2	6
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4	6	3	7	1	2	5	8	9
3	7	6	5	2	4	9	1	8
9	5	2	8	7	1	6	3	4
8	1	4	9	3	6	2	5	7
6	8	1	2	4	7	3	9	5
5	3	9	1	6	8	4	7	2
2	4	7	3	5	9	8	6	1

2	4	5	3	1	6
3	6	1	5	4	2
6	5	4	1	2	3
1	2	3	6	5	4
5	3	2	4	6	1
4	1	6	2	3	5

1/19/23

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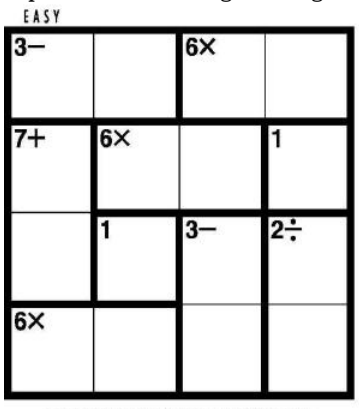
Solutions to Wednesday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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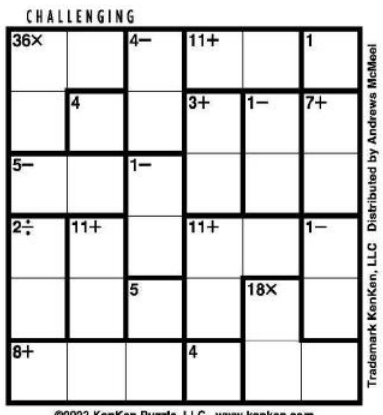
CHALLENGING



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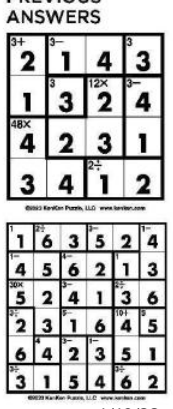
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



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1/19/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): Everything works out. Whatever is bothering you will be resolved, maybe even by tomorrow, so don't waste your day worrying about it.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): People notice you. It is certainly a compliment. You may get some nosy questions, which you'll field with your usual good humor.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Sending a thank-you note or knowing the proper way to make introductions will make an impression and give you a winning edge.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Your mind needs an assignment. Tell it to come up with three activities that make you happy and then order your body to do them.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Getting more love flowing in your life may have nothing to do with dating or romance. Try compassion for humanity at large, or harmony among family and friends.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The one who takes full responsibility for a problem has the power to do something about it. Even if you're working with others, act as if this is all yours to solve.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): You don't like to come off as nosy. But you also don't like vague answers to questions. You'll have to dig a little deeper to get the full story.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Relationships are a cornerstone of your well-being, and no structure has just one. Spread the love around.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): With your upbeat attitude, you're an asset to the group. When you're not sure what to say, a smile says it all. Your wordless support and quiet respect will be strongly felt.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This situation won't change as much or as quickly as you need it to. Accept it and build from there or move on now. Decisive action gives you power.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You could do this alone, but a supportive and exciting interaction with one or two others will give energy to the endeavor.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be seen and listened to. Assume you will be asked to speak and be ready.

Today's birthday (Jan. 19): Remember what you wanted things to be like when you didn't know better? You'll finally make that happen. More highlights: creating something you're proud of and getting signals from the universe that you are on the right track. Surefooted you'll run to embrace your destiny. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers: 14, 4, 20, 7, 17.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Jerry Edelstein

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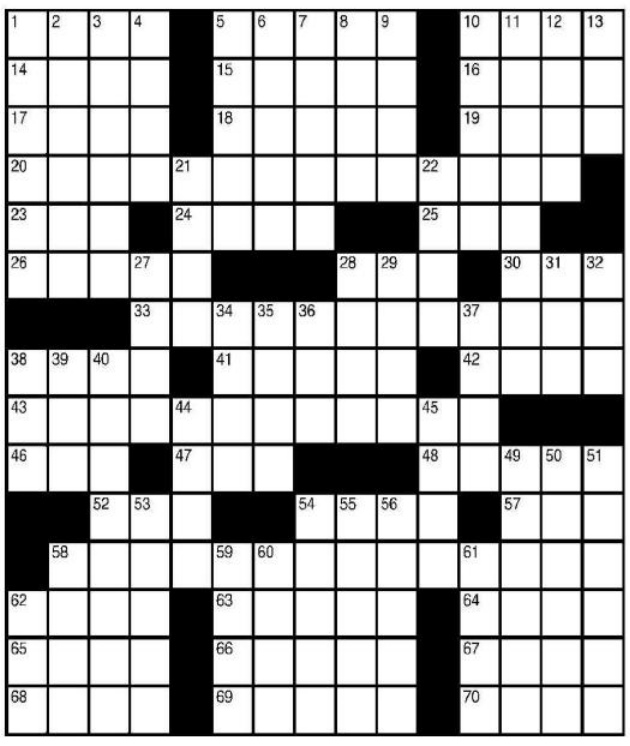

ACROSS

1 Sven's transport in "Frozen"
5 35-Down company founded in Milwaukee in 1844
10 Ziploc feature
14 Exercise target
15 "Love Me Like You Do" Grammy nominee Goulding
16 Cut
17 Missing
18 Spa amenity
19 Doesn't just assume
20 C's
23 Start to mature?
24 Eyeglass frames
25 Gift with an aloha
26 Matter of debate
28 VIP with a corner office, perhaps
30 Dec. 31
33 Seas
38 Antlered deer
41 Retro photo hue
42 Burial isle of many Scottish kings
43 Sees
46 Skin art, for short
47 Unit of corn
48 Titan with a heavy load
52 "Hellboy" actor Perlman
54 Comfort Revolution bra-maker
57 Tolkien terror
58 Seize
62 Clicking devices
63 Poet Dove and actress Moreno
64 "Less" Pulitzer winner Andrew __ Greer
65 "It's for you," on an env.
66 "Wrong!"
67 "Smooth Operator" singer
68 Crime novelist Gerritsen
69 Alloy containing carbon
70 Brewpub brews

DOWN

1 Shrimp dish
2 Reduces
3 Reduces slowly
4 Supermarket section
5 "GoodFellas" Oscar winner
6 Heist obstacle
7 St. Louis team
8 Compete on "The Voice"
9 Rip
10 Digging tool
11 Gradually become familiar with
12 Slow-moving boats
13 Paul in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
21 Former pitcher Hershiser
22 Body wash ingredient
27 Some slouchy boots
28 Ad writer's award
29 Actor Morales
31 Desire
32 Schedule abbr.
34 Hazmat monitor
35 Heady stuff?
36 Smartphone download
37 The Panthers of the ACC
38 Lt.'s underling
39 Bagged leaves?
40 Has some pull?
44 Collapsible shelter
45 Gullible sort
49 World's largest cosmetics company
50 Game keeper?
51 Movie parts
53 Makes the first bet
54 Actress Davis played by Susan Sarandon in TV's "Feud"
55 Humiliate
56 Disinfectant brand
58 Quote
59 Large garden planters
60 Barrel of laughs
61 Mount of Greek legend
62 Little rug

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	A	G	S		F	O	A	L		E	S	S	A	Y
P	L	O	W		A	W	R	Y		L	A	P	I	S
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C	O	P	Y	C	A	T		E	T	C	H			
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		L	I	L	A		O	D	O	R		A	A	A
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S	I	R	E	N		O	H	M		C	A	L	L	S
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S	O	N	I	A		A	D	H	D		D	I	E	T
N	O	E	A	R		K	A	T	Y		E	N	D	S

1/19/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

I continue a series on suit establishment. I believe that many players focus on bidding, especially on conventions, and spend too little time on card-play technique.

In today's deal, dummy played low on the opening club lead, and East took the ace and shifted to a trump. South won in dummy, took the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, led a trump to his hand and ruffed his last diamond. But then he was stuck in dummy, and when he led the king of clubs, East ruffed. South also lost two spades and went down.

How would you play four hearts?

There is more than one way to skin a mule — and more than one way to set up a suit. Here, South can rely on a loser-on-loser play. He draws trumps and leads the jack of clubs: queen, king. When East discards, South leads the nine of clubs and pitches a spade.

Then South can pitch another spade on the high eight of clubs. He ruffs one diamond in dummy, losing a diamond at the end plus two clubs.

You hold: ♠ 9 3 2 ♥ K 10 9 6 4 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ J 4. The dealer, at your left, opens one diamond. Your partner doubles, you respond ("advance") one heart and he bids one spade. Opponents pass. What do you say?

Answer: Since your partner doubled for takeout before bidding his suit, he has substantial extra strength: at least 17 points. If your hand had been any stronger, you could have jumped to two hearts to invite game. Bid four spades.

West dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 10 6
♥ A Q J 5
♦ Q
♣ K 9 8 5 2

WEST
♠ K J 7
♥ 2
♦ K 10 6 2
♣ Q 10 7 6 3

EAST
♠ Q 8 5 4
♥ 8 7 3
♦ J 9 8 4 3
♣ A

SOUTH
♠ 9 3 2
♥ K 10 9 6 4
♦ A 7 5
♣ J 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Opening lead – ♣ 6

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ASK AMY

Wedding bells and bills

Dear Amy: Recently my partner and I got engaged. We're both women. My parents won't attend our wedding for religious reasons.

If it was just us paying for the wedding, we'd be going to city hall and a bar afterward with friends.

My partner's parents are willing to foot the bill. They've been supportive of our relationship and my career and are financially able.

I'm wondering who I can/should invite?

I have a large out-of-town family who are supportive.

I'm self-conscious about putting people on my in-laws' tab while my parents are not participating.

I want to express gratitude for their generosity, but expressing any preferences in planning feels bratty. I know I run the risk of looking disinterested or ungrateful.

I'd rather avoid it all, but I don't want my partner or her family to suffer from my parents' absence and their refusal to contribute.

Can you offer direction?

Bewildered Bride

Dear Bewildered: I advocate for couples to finance their own weddings. This involves both parties fully participating to raise money for the wedding and reception.

Couples may do this by going to family members.

In "traditional" weddings, the bride's parents are expected to pay for the wedding reception, so you could see this offer as hewing to a traditional practice.

What's missing is your participation in the process. Your embarrassment regarding your parents' rejection seems to be suppressing your own obligation, which is to take part in the planning.

Communicating about this will be good practice for your marriage. You should express your concerns to your partner, and the two of you should have a transparent meeting with her parents. (Would any of your extended family members be able and willing to perhaps host a rehearsal dinner?)

Even if her folks are fully financing the wedding, you and your partner have equal rights to review your guest lists and work together to add to your lists — or winnow them down.

Dear Amy: My ex-fiancée, "Alyse," dumped me because I have women friends. There was nothing other than friendship. My interactions with them never affected my time with her, and I was always transparent.

Even so, Alyse made an ultimatum that I drop my women friends, which I refused, and after a while she ended the relationship.

Alyse had been seeing a therapist who told her that I "have women friends to feed my ego," that I "prey on insecure women" and that I had "an asexual love relationship" with one friend.

Her therapist also discouraged Alyse from going to couples counseling with me when I proposed it.

We don't talk now, which is partly my fault because I, regrettably, blew up when she ended things.

I miss her like crazy and wonder if I should have given in to her demands, and if there's any way to reconnect.

Missing Her

Dear Missing: It is hard to imagine a therapist advising against joint counseling, unless with an abuser. Alyse may have misrepresented her therapist's views.

You say your interactions with women friends never affected your time with Alyse. Yet they did, because they brought forth her insecurity.

If you had given in, I suspect other underlying serious issues would have surfaced. I suggest you move on.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"PJ's frosting at the mouth."

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

"I DON'T KNOW WHO I TAKE AFTER... BUT MY MOM'S ALWAYS AFTER ME."

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

Any teenagers who can hear me should text me in the affirmative.
get a signed print: cartoons@replyallcomic.com
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www.replyallcomic.com
1-19

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

"Testing the new mattress."

BLISS By Harry Bliss

"You stuck again?"

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz

SORRY I'M LATE, VERO. THE SNOWSTORM EASED UP, SO I'M ON MY WAY TO YOU.
AND THEN WE CAN START WATCHING THAT SPOOKY STREAMING SHOW YOU'VE BEEN DYING TO SEE.
I'VE ALREADY BINGED IT, AND UPDATED MY LOOK ACCORDINGLY.

DILBERT By Scott Adams

TINA, I NO LONGER NEED A TECHNICAL WRITER BECAUSE A.I. CAN DO ALL OF THAT NONSENSE.
DID YOU JUST FIRE ME WHILE ALSO DIMINISHING MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMPANY?
HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF A CONVERSATION I WILL NEVER NEED TO HAVE WITH AN A.I.

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

KEVIN, IF WE'RE GONNA KEEP YOU FROM GETTING HELD BACK, YOU HAVE TO ACE TOMORROW'S SCIENCE QUIZ.
BUT I LEFT MY SCIENCE BOOK IN MY LOCKER.
OH, DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT SPARES.
YOU HAVE SPARE SCHOOL-BOOKS?
MOM ORDERS THEM FOR ME IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.
YOU HAVE EMER-GENCY SCHOOL-BOOKS!?
YOU CAN PASS JUDGMENT OR PASS THE SCIENCE QUIZ. PICK ONE.

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

OKAY, THIS HAS GOTTEN OUT OF HAND.
AMMIE...
WREN, YOU SHOULD BE IDOLIZING ME, NOT SOME BOOGER-INFESTED WEIRDO LIKE HAMMIE!
MAYBE THERE'S MORE TO ME THAN MEETS THE EYE.
ABSOLUTELY NOT. I'VE DONE FIELD STUDIES.

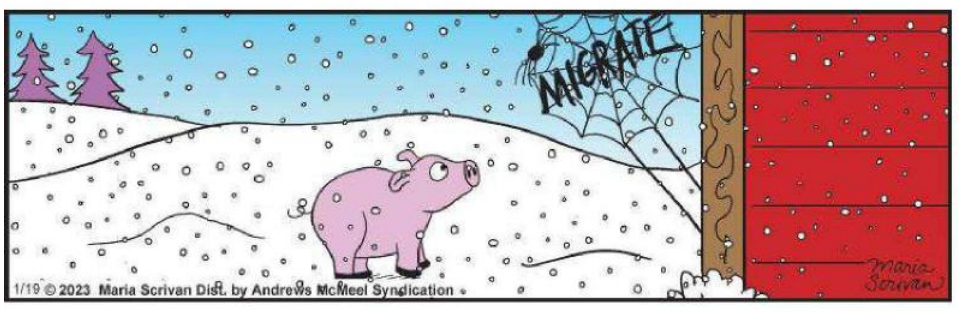
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

SEDNA IS THE MOST DISTANT DWARF PLANET WE'VE FOUND SO FAR IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM, RIGHT, LEMONT?
YEAH, IT'S ORBIT IS HIGHLY ECCENTRIC. THE LAST TIME IT WAS THIS CLOSE TO EARTH, WE WERE JUST COMING OUT OF THE LAST ICE AGE.
BUT "CLOSE" IS A RELATIVE TERM. EVEN BACK THEN, SEDNA WAS IMPOSSIBLY DISTANT.
I SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING. BUT I'M STILL GOING TO ACCEPT HER FACEBOOK FRIEND REQUEST.
SEDNA GHOSTED YOU IN 7TH GRADE! DWARF PLANETS DON'T CHANGE THEIR ORBITS!

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers

THIS 'BLACK RAVEN' COMIC IS PRETTY RARE... I'LL TELL YOU WHAT...
HOW ABOUT IF I SELL THIS AND SPLIT THE PROCEEDS WITH YOU?
OH, THAT'S NOT REALLY NECESSARY.
WE COULD BE TALKING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS HERE...
BUT, IF YOU INSIST...
POW

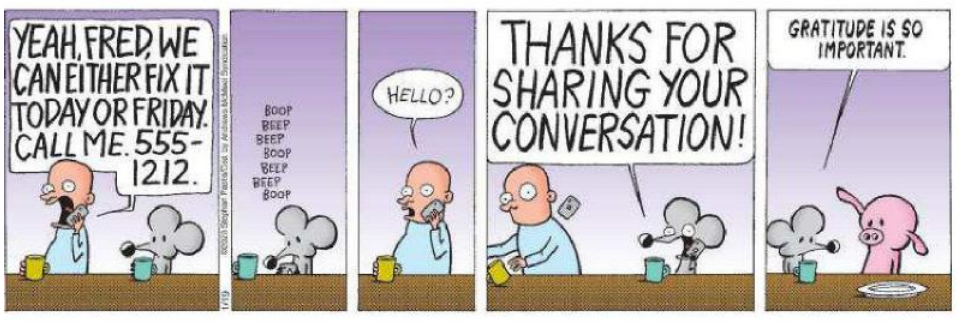
HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

WELL... WE PUT A SHOCK CAGE AROUND THIS BOX. YOU'RE SAFE.
SO, IT IS DEFINITELY A BOMB?!
NOT REALLY SURE. WE'LL GET IT OUT OF HERE, AND FIGURE ALL OF THAT OUT.
SO, I HEAR MARCUS IS ABOUT TO GET MARRIED, HUH?
REGGIE, CAN WE NOT DO SMALL TALK RIGHT NOW?!

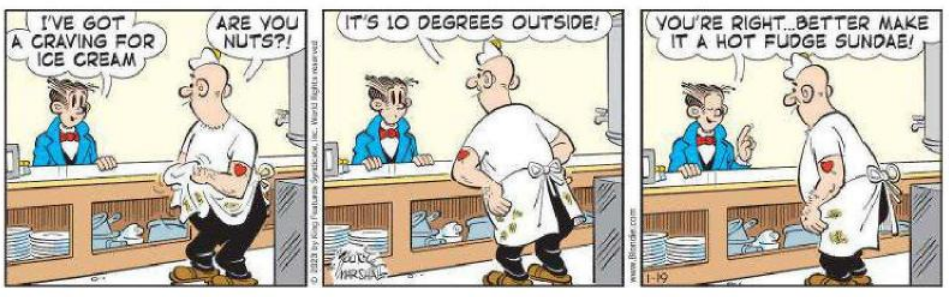
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


YEAH, FRED, WE CAN EITHER FIX IT TODAY OR FRIDAY. CALL ME. 555-1212.
BOOP BEEP BEEP BOOP BEEP BEEP BOOP
HELLO?
THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR CONVERSATION!
GRATITUDE IS SO IMPORTANT.

MACANUDO By Liniers

LIO By Mark Tatulli

BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

I CHOSE TO WORK REMOTELY BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WORKED BEST WITH MY TWO KIDS
-BUT I'VE FOUND THERE ARE PROS AND CONS TO IT... FOR EXAMPLE, I'M ALWAYS AVAILABLE IF MY KIDS NEED ME
AND WHAT'S THE CON?
THAT IS THE CON!

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro

SIX CHIX By Mary Lawton

DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan

HEY, YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS VIDEO, HONEYBUNCH!
IT SHOWS YOU HOW TO TONE YOUR...
TONE YOUR...
TUNE YOUR PIANO? TOO BAD WE DON'T HAVE A PIANO!

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

I WAS READING ABOUT HOW MANY OF THE WORLD'S SPECIES ARE VANISHING.
IT'S GRADUAL AND THEN IT'S SUDDEN. THEY'RE HERE AND THEN THEY'RE NOT.
THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN EXTANT AND EXTINCT.
GO AHEAD.
AND IT JUST XTINCTS.

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

I HEAR YOUR FRIEND HAS THE VAPORS
YOU'RE TAKING AN AWFUL CHANCE TREATING HIM YOURSELF! WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG? HE COULD SUE YOU!
SUE ME?! WOODSTOCK WOULD NEVER DO THAT!
SCHULZ

A litmus test for indie film

Amazon Prime Video

GAEL GARCÍA BERNAL stars in Roger Ross Williams' "Cassandro," which will premiere at Sundance.

[**Sundance,** from E1]
went from winning awards at the festival in 2020 with the semi-autobiographical "Minari" to directing on the upcoming season of the "Star Wars" streaming series "The Mandalorian." Less clear, though, is the lasting impact of the films themselves, as Hollywood companies continue to search for the right blend of streaming and theatrical, popular and prestigious, to fill out their film portfolios.

In recent years, streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV+ have paid outsize sums of money for titles, only for their nontraditional release strategies and unpredictable algorithms to seem to soften their impact. Meanwhile, distributors with a stronger investment in theatrical exhibition, such as Sony Pictures Classics, Roadside Attractions, Focus Features, Searchlight Pictures, Magnolia Pictures and IFC Films — all strong presences at Sundance before the streaming services — were forced to compete with unprecedentedly deep pockets. (Representatives for Netflix, Apple TV+ and Amazon Prime Video declined to comment for this story.)

Now, as the streamers trim the fat for a shifting economy and the more established players face an uncertain theatrical landscape, most everyone is scratching their heads — over what the new normal might be, or even how to define success.

"The short answer is we don't know," said John Sloss, founder of Cinetic Media, a company involved in some of the biggest sales in the festival's history. "We don't know how the theatrical experience is going to work for specialized movies and is that audience going to come back. I think to a certain extent, the distributors and this market will be the canaries in the coal mine about what the confidence is that that market's going to return."

Sloss added, "I think we'll learn a lot by what happens at the festival and in the immediate aftermath."

Tellingly, perhaps, the most successful film from the 2022 festival is not grand jury prize winner "Nanny," purchased by Amazon and released with minimal fanfare at the end of the year, or audience award winner "Cha Cha Real Smooth," likewise acquired by Apple TV+ and released to a more muted reception than expected. It's John Patton Ford's "Emily the Criminal," featuring a powerhouse performance by Aubrey Plaza and a highly relevant vein of dead-end frustration. Released in partnership by Roadside Attractions and Vertical Entertainment, the film made more than $2 million at the box office over the summer, continued to earn money as it hit VOD platforms and finally found its largest audience yet when it began streaming on Netflix late in the year. The film also earned Gotham and Spirit award nominations and a DGA nom for Ford.

"I don't think it's an existential moment, because I think that indie films will survive," said Howard Cohen, co-president of Roadside Attractions, which will be at Sundance this year scoping out potential acquisitions and as a producer on Randall Park's feature directorial debut "Shortcomings." "But certainly old models are being, let's say, heavily reevaluated."

The industry's approach to the festival changes with the times as surely as the topics covered by the films in the festival, which this year includes movies that grapple with gendered power dynamics, the immigrant experience, the war in Ukraine and a host of other hot-button subjects.

"We change our business model constantly because the business changes constantly," said Tom Bernard, co-president of Sony Pictures Classics, which at last year's festival picked up "Living," starring Bill Nighy, then released it in conjunction with an awards campaign for the lead actor.

"The streamers are going to sort of collide. How many [services] can you subscribe to?" said Bernard. "I think that you're going to have a new version of a cable package, only it's going to be your streamer package. Eventually when the fear of COVID is over, the audience will be back."

Among Roadside Attractions' previous Sundance releases (in partnership with Amazon) is 2016's "Manchester by the Sea," which went on to make nearly $50 million in the U.S. and win two Oscars — a result that now seems less aspirational than out of reach.

"I definitely don't view it as apocalyptic," said Cohen. "Part of it has nothing to do with COVID and has nothing to do with streaming. Part of it has to do with the nature of indie cinema, which over the past 30 years has had ebbs and flows, players come and dance with the movies for a while and then move on.

"Movies are unpredictable," said Cohen. "So you can have 'Manchester' and then you can have 15 [other films] do nothing. And that has nothing to do with streaming or the pandemic."

Writer-director Nicole Holofcener came to the festival with her first feature, "Walking and Talking" (1996); when her latest, "You Hurt My Feelings," starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus, premieres this year, it will be the fourth of her seven feature films to launch at Sundance.

Holofcener has likewise witnessed the ups and downs of the indie film business over the years, having worked with a number of different distributors. Her previous film, 2018's "The Land of Steady Habits," was released by Netflix.

"I'm certainly not getting bigger budgets," said Holofcener. "If I had guessed, 'Oh, I'll be making my seventh movie in 2022, would I be getting less than I got from for a movie I made 10 years ago?' I would not have guessed that. It's become more competitive and movie-star based, and there's so much on TV that less movies are getting made. It wasn't a piece of cake to get mine made, and I was glad to get what I got. I have hopes that my movie will play in the theaters longer than 10 minutes, but I don't know. And I didn't really have that fear in the past."

The film already has distribution with the premium boutique company A24, yet the precise, insightful adult dramedy of which Holofcener is a master practitioner is exactly the kind of movie that many audiences are now reluctant to turn up to theaters to see, having grown accustomed to watching them on streaming at home.

"Of course, my preference would be for people to see it in the theater. Not necessarily an empty theater, but at least they're not going to get up and take care of their kid or make dinner in the middle," said Holofcener. "Theaters are preferable, but honestly, I'll take it anyway I can get it. I think a lot of people watch my films streaming and discover them streaming. They're not exactly cinematic opuses — it's not like 'Babylon,' or 'Avatar' or something you should see on a big screen. It's OK to watch mine on a large TV. I'll say large. Sixty-five-inch, no less."

> 'I think we'll learn a lot by what happens at the festival and in the immediate aftermath.'
>
> — John Sloss, founder of Cinetic Media

When Roger Ross Williams won the directing prize for his documentary "Life, Animated" in 2016, he was already an Oscar winner for a short film in 2009. Yet, as he put it, "I feel like I wouldn't even have a career without Sundance."

Williams' first scripted feature, "Cassandro," starring Gael García Bernal, has already been picked up by Amazon Prime Video, and Williams acknowledged that its theatrical life may be brief.

"I always want people to experience films in a theater because there's nothing like that collective experience, but I realize in today's world that that may be challenging for a lot of people," he said. "So we do have to meet audiences where they are.

"Sundance became this powerful force and put independent filmmaking on the map," said Williams. "It remains even more important today when huge corporate interests are controlling a lot of the product out there. We are losing space for true independent voices, and Sundance amplifies those voices. When I was there with my first film, I had nothing. I didn't have a distributor. They just liked my work and invited me."

The two pandemic editions of Sundance in 2021 and 2022 featured an online component that greatly expanded the potential audience for the festival, allowing people to participate without traveling to the side of a mountain in Utah. This year, a limited selection of films from the program will be available to stream online during the second half of the festival after their in-person premieres.

"That's the future," said Vicente. "At some point, arthouse audiences are aging, and we do need to get younger people excited."

Yutani has an eye to the future as well, as she assembles both her programming team and the titles selected in the festival in any given year.

"I listen closely to our younger programmers. If they feel passionate about something, that means something," said Yutani. "I used to think as a programmer you get better with age because you just know more about life and whatnot. But I think that oftentimes programming can be very instinctual, and to know what audiences are going to respond to is a skill, but it's also something that you feel. Eventually it's up to me to make the final choice of whether something is in or out of the festival, but it is informed by all of those voices in the room.

"I want to have a festival where there's room for a film like 'Living' and then there are films that are in our Next section or our Midnight section that speak to newer audiences who might not even know what Sundance is," said Yutani. "But if they find out that a film that they love was world premiered at Sundance, then that creates a certain kind of awareness of the work we do."

Writer-director Maryam Keshavarz won the audience prize in 2011 with her debut feature "Circumstance." She is back in the U.S. dramatic competition this year with "The Persian Version," an autobiographical tale of an Iranian American woman navigating both sides of her cultural identity.

"We all know that where we premiere, the stage that's set by how we show our work and what environment, affects people," said Keshavarz on what it means to be back at the festival. "The fact that they champion women, they champion queer people, I can't think of any other place that has done it to that degree. And Sundance, not only do they show the work, but they've nurtured it from early stages. They support you as a career."

Indeed, for all the changes that have come to the festival — and with new director Eugene Hernandez taking over next year, Sundance brings with it not only the scrutiny of a brand name, but also the reliability.

"Sundance is remarkably faithful, in my opinion, to what they've always been," said Sloss. "And I think everyone involved with it deserves a lot of credit for that. And it is still remains the primary showcase in the world, or at least in the U.S., for discovering new voices. And it is the best documentary showcase and market in the world, period, hands down. And I think that's where so much of the excitement of Sundance comes from."

Exploring slavery's legacy of colorism

David Maja

NYANI NKRUMAH wanted every character in her debut novel to be nuanced.

[**Nkrumah,** from E1]
mastermind the infamous murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. (The father is a fictional creation.)

Kate grows into Katherine, a Northern liberal intellectual who thinks she has moved beyond her past, until a research trip to Ricksville, where she befriends Ella, shows how shallowly she had buried her father's influence. As the book progresses, she comes to feel like both a real person and a metaphor for America. She wants to be better but is unwilling to do the real work of self-reflection, and the consequences of her blindness are devastating. As Ella turns to Katherine as a potential hero, tensions between her would-be savior and her suspicious Black neighbors come to a boil.

Nkrumah was born in Boston but spent most of her childhood in Ghana and Zimbabwe before returning to the U.S. for college, majoring in biology and Black studies at Amherst. She spoke recently by video from her home in Maryland about racism on two continents and the dreaded white-savior narrative. Our interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Mr. McCabe teaches Ella how differently she'd be perceived in countries like Ghana. How much did your childhood in Africa shape you?

In Ghana there were no color dimensions. My parents mixed with a lot of expatriates, and I went to an international school and didn't know anything about color or race. When I came back to the States for one year around age 7 there was some racism — there was an incident where someone chased us and threw rocks at us, but my sister beat them up, so I mostly forgot about it.

Then when I was 15, there was a famine in Ghana and my dad, who was a pediatrician, got a job in Zimbabwe. That began a whole new era in my life. We moved there in 1983 and they were just beginning to dismantle their system of apartheid. It was a pivotal moment in the country and I was caught in the middle of it. I was the first Black girl, with just two Black boys, in an all-white class and I really felt the world had gone mad. It was so traumatic — nobody would talk to you, nobody would sit with you.

Was colorism an issue in the Black community in Zimbabwe?

A lot of what I know about colorism I learned here. For the book I talked to my friends here and read about the roots of colorism stemming from slavery, with the whitening of the Black population. But in Zimbabwe we did have the divisions too. It was very confusing for me because my family is all across the board — none of us are the same color.

Mr. McCabe tells Ella, "slave owners changed our eyes, but we let them." He's indicting the Black community for absorbing the bias toward dark skin. How do you think Black readers will respond to that viewpoint?

That's a tricky one. I look forward to seeing the reviews. Colorism is definitely part of slavery's legacy, but to some extent you have to decide if you're going to carry forth those negative legacies into the future. The question is, can we discuss it more and change things? It's not a criticism, it's just a point for reflection.

Katherine's struggle seems to mirror white America's blind spot — that unwillingness to frankly examine our past. Did you intend it that way?

No, it just came from the writing of the character. Some early readers said, "We don't quite get Katherine's character. She appears out of the blue," which she did in that draft. So I had to think about where she came from and the issues she encountered and what drove her and how she tries to escape the family history.

Overcoming racism is a struggle for her. You wonder, How on earth does she get past this legacy that she's trying to shed? Some of it seeps through but not all of it. To what extent can you escape?

She never really deals with the linger echoes of her father's racism.

That's very true. I hope that came across. Yes, she wants to change, but the lies we tell ourselves are the problem. She doesn't see things the way readers see her. Her warm feelings for Ella are real but she has this other part of her that keeps interfering. She's one of these in-between people.

I used to belong to a book club and we used to dissect books and pull them apart, and I thought this would be a good opportunity for people to build bridges and have an open dialogue. I wasn't thinking about a metaphor for America, but I do hope the reader engages in these pivotal issues.

Ella learns about the danger of investing in a white savior, but she still emerges with a hopeful worldview.

I didn't want stereotypes. There are excellent novels that I love, like "The Help" and "The Secret Life of Bees," that have a different dynamic. I didn't want a warm Black mama or a white savior. Those pitfalls I deliberately tried to avoid, and I wanted to lift up Black men so I had two powerful Black male characters. And I wanted to make it less obvious about color — so we do have "good" people across the board. The more hopeful message at the end is more aspirational. It's not how we see the world today.